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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

WEEKLY EDITION.

FEBRUARY 1, 1873.

The DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, corner Fifth avenue and Hutchinson street, opposite Postoffice.

RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

M. F. EGAN, Business Manager.

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1873.

The Pittsburgh

COMMERCIAL

Daily and Weekly.

LEADING

PENNSYLVANIA PAPER.

A paper so widely known as the COMMERCIAL can safely refer to its course in the past as a guaranty for the future. But it will not be content to pursue the beaten path. The re-election of General Grant insures for the country a lengthened period of prosperity and progress. The press is destined to play a still more important part as the educator of the people and leader of public opinion. In the future, as in the past, the COMMERCIAL will not be content to lag in the rear, but will be fully up to the times in whatever relates to the general welfare.

As a PAPER OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE AND MEDIUM OF THE LATEST NEWS, the COMMERCIAL is widely known and appreciated. We expend annually many thousands of dollars to supply the wants of the public.

As a PAPER OF PROGRESS, it will hereafter continue to maintain its character in this respect.

As a PAPER OF OPINION, the COMMERCIAL will continue to discuss men and measures with perfect freedom, and with an eye single to the public good, believing that the principles of the Republican party will thereby be best subserved.

As an INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will criticise its own party for its own good, believing that in free discussion and the independent expression of opinion only can our institutions be preserved.

As a BUSINESS PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will hereafter, as heretofore, employ every agency it can command to meet the wants of the public. Now that the period of party excitement has been passed, it will pay special attention to topics interesting in the counting room, the banks and marts of trade, giving prominence to Art, Invention, Agriculture and Manufactures.

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The country is about entering on a period of unexampled prosperity. The field of journalism is constantly enlarging. We will be disappointed if the COMMERCIAL do not hold a position in it along with the leading journals of the country.

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EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

Frightful Disaster—Three Hundred and Twenty Persons Drowned.

LONDON, January 23.—The report of a terrible marine disaster last night in the English channel has just been received. The Northfleet, which sailed from here several days ago for Australia with 412 passengers, exclusive of her crew, came in collision last night, two miles off Dungineas, with an unknown foreign steamship, and was cut to the water's edge. Only eighty-five persons are known to have been saved. It is feared that every other person who was on board has found a watery grave. No attention was paid by the steamship to the emigrant vessel after the collision, and she proceeded on her course, leaving the sufferers to their fate.

LATER.—When the collision between the emigrant ship Northfleet and the unknown steamship happened last night, a panic occurred on the former vessel. The passengers, who were asleep, rushed from their berths to every portion of the ship where they thought to find safety, but the latter refused to obey the orders of the Captain. That officer, as a last resort to enforce obedience to his commands, was compelled to fire upon the terror-stricken people. One of them was wounded. It is believed that if the passengers had obeyed the orders of the Captain more of them would have been saved.

Additional particulars of the terrible marine disaster off Dunginess lighthouse last night have been received. The Northfleet was lying at anchor at the time the collision occurred. Her cargo consisted of railway iron. Three hundred and twenty-one persons were drowned, including the Captain of the ill-fated vessel. The name of the steamer which sunk the emigrant ship has not yet been ascertained, but she is believed to have been a Spanish vessel, bound from Antwerp. The Board of Trade of this city has offered a reward of one hundred pounds for her discovery.

LONDON, January 23—Noon.—The steamer which ran down and sunk the emigrant ship Northfleet off Dungineas, is believed to be a Portuguese craft. Her name cannot be ascertained until she reaches port.

LONDON, January 23.—Twelve other persons have been saved from the emigrant ship Northfleet, making ninety-seven known to have been saved. The Lloyds have telegraphed their agents at all southern stations to stop, if possible, the steamer which run the Northfleet down.

The Disaster in the English Channel.

LONDON, January 24.—All the journals express their indignation, in the strongest terms, at the heartless conduct of the captain of the unknown steamer which sunk the Northfleet. The government has offered a reward for the discovery of her name. Sixty survivors of the ill-fated emigrant ship have arrived here.

Information has been received that the steamship which sunk the Northfleet off Dungeness lighthouse, Wednesday night, was a Spanish vessel bound for Cadiz.

She is reported to have put into the harbor of Havre with her bows damaged. A large quantity of the wrecked stuff from the Northfleet has come ashore on the Kentish coast, but no bodies have yet been recovered. A committee, headed by the Lord Mayor of the city, is being formed to receive subscriptions for the rescued passengers who are destitute.

Vesuvius Threatening Eruption.

NAPLES, January 27.—There have been slight eruptions from Mount Vesuvius lately. No damage was done, but some alarm created.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

NOAH WEBSTER ON POTATO CULTURE.

The fame of the great lexicographer certainly does not rest upon his knowledge of agriculture, but the following letter, dated New York, April 29, 1797, and addressed to Robert R. Livingston, President of the New York Agricultural Society, shows that he was a careful observer and knew something besides *words*. He writes:

Some observations made the last year, on the growth of potatoes, may possibly be worth the notice of the agricultural society. From a single experiment, I am led to the following results:

1. The potatoes should be those of full growth.

2. Cuttings produce more than whole potatoes.

3. The English Whites grow to perfection in a short time, and upon a poorer soil than the red. The difference is essential. They are, therefore, best for early potatoes.

4. Potatoes will not come to perfection without the sun. Therefore, nothing is so prejudicial as to plant them too thick, especially upon rich soil.

5. The cuttings in drills, where the land is light, will answer well at nine inches distance. This seems to be a good distance for the Whites. But in rich land, especially if the potatoes be of the red kind, the stalks of which grow to a large size, the distance should be not less than from twelve to fifteen inches.

AVOIDING THE "WOOLLY TASTE" IN MUTTON.

The following experience of a Texas correspondent of the Mobile *Register* confirms the view heretofore expressed as to the cause and cure of the rank flavor noticed in improperly prepared mutton:

"Haring the sheep by the heels and cut his troat thoroughly—windpipe, swallow, jugular vein and all. He will die very quickly. So soon as life is extinct, or motion ceases, remove the entrails with a sharp knife, opening completely from tail to tongue. This job I generally get through with in just about half a minute. I am satisfied that the peculiar flavor of the badly handled mutton, said to come from the wool, is due to the entrails lying too long in the animal. I pay no particular attention to the wool, as that is demanded by neatness. On the plan above named, I frequently kill sheep four miles from home, tie them to my saddle, take them home, and even allow them to remain over night without skinning, and no woolly flavor results. My mutton is proverbial for its delicacy and sweetness, and now you have exactly how I manage it."

SMUT IN WHEAT.

Many people are afraid of sowing wheat because they think that it is an uncertain crop, liable to be destroyed by smut or rust. I have grown wheat for many years, and though I have sometimes suffered from rust, until I hit upon changing my seed every year, I have never had a particle of smut, and no one need have any if he will only follow the same easy precautions. I always soak my seed in strong brine, not blue-stone water, which I believe is good, too; but I prefer the brine because I know it to be good. I put the seed in a big barrel or hogshead, half full of the strongest brine I can make, and stir it with a stick every time I pass, and remove the smutty grains off all the light grains and foreign seeds which float upon the surface, leaving nothing but the heavy, sound wheat. I then pour off the brine and put it in a barrel fixed on legs like a ley barrel with holes in the bottom, covered with a strong net, which will keep the wheat in and allow the water to run out. I then pour into the barrel a sufficient quantity of thin whitewash (lime and water), which runs throughout and gives every kernel a coating of lime. Immediately after this is done I spread out the seed to dry, and then it is ready for the sower. I have now done this I have never had a smutty ear in my wheat, and indeed I might say the same of that adopted my plan have had a similar experience.

Since I have been in the habit of changing my seed every year—that is, using seed brought from a distance, I have escaped the rust. I cannot explain the reason of this. I can only give the fact.—*Cor. Southern Farm and Home.*

DYSENTERY IN BEES.

The mortality among bees last winter from dysentery, has led to much investigation upon the subject, by apiarians. At the late meeting of the Michigan Bee-Keepers' Association, Dr. Rohrer, of Indiana, read a paper upon this subject, which contains the following:

"After searching in every quarter for the cause, I find nothing more than has heretofore been common until I came to examine the honey, which last fall presented no external evidence of its unfitness for bees to winter on successfully. But as time progressed a portion of it granulated and left a watery substance which ran out of the cells, and down upon the bottom board, as it would in warm days in any instances. Just what kind of honey it was I am not fully prepared to say, but as there were no flowers from which bees could collect honey in the latter part of autumn, I suppose it to be honey-dew they were collecting, as they came in heavily loaded every day for a week or more, yet I do not take it upon myself to vouch for this substance in the forests, and may have been mistaken, but don't think I was. After I saw it in the condition above described I also concluded that it was collected from grapes; but as there was not enough grapes in our part to furnish so much honey, I fell back to honey-dew. I have made inquiry of several persons who claim to be practical bee-keepers in this section, and find them laboring under the impression that bees will not winter well when confined to this material as food. I have also learned that honey-dew was not season quite common in all seasons, where dysentery prevailed as an epidemic. If this information be correct, I think we have found out the true cause of the ravages of the spring dwindlers and would therefore recommend to bee-keepers the custom of emptying their combs with the extractor in September or October, feeding back in all cases where it is known that the hive is stored with honey-dew. It will, however, be advisable to make haste slowly by ascertaining as we go along whether or not my opinions are correct as to honey-dew being unfit for bees to subsist on over winter. A few colonies out of a large number set aside, will be sufficient to test the matter in any large apiary."

HOW TO RAISE TURNIPS.

Uncle Sam has been enough to give us all a sting! There are two million bee-hives in the United States. Every hive yields on an average a little over 22 pounds of honey. The average price at which honey is sold is 25 cents a pound. So that after paying for their own board, our bees present us with a revenue of over $8,800,000. To reckon it another way, they make a clear gift of over a pound of pure, honey to every man, woman and child in the United States. In 1860 over 23,330,300 pounds of wax were made and given to us by these industrious workers. Altogether, bees is one of the most profitable investments that our people can make of their money. The profits arising from the sale of surplus honey average from 50 to 200 per cent. of the capital invested.

AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS.

There never has been a time in which the mind of the agricultural public has been so thoroughly aroused as at the present moment. The farmers conceive that all classes—either have, or endeavor to take, advantage over them, and they have the idea, which is certainly true, that while their business is the basis of the prosperity of the nation, yet they are the only ones who really have no control over the products they raise, and that the charges of exorbitant freights and expenses on their crop are really borne by them, and that when the products of their labor reach the great markets of consumers speculators and combinations and boards of trade, or corn exchanges fix the prices, which in most cases it is impossible for them to overcome.

These views are almost universally entertained by the farmers; they are unable to meet and consult with any effect upon their own interests, and consequently every one has to fight it out on his own hook, and of course, as in all such cases, the weakest has generally to go to the wall. Hence throughout the length and breadth of the land the necessity for forming associations for their own protection is vividly realized, and whilst at the West and some parts of the South Granges of the Patrons of Industry are being formed, at the North and East Farmers' Clubs and County Associations are being very numerously organized, with the preliminary arrangements for a co-operation with each other in Annual Congress or State Associations. A number of these clubs are already in existence in neighboring States, but they should be extended to every neighborhood of ten miles square, and if no other benefit could accrue to the members, the advantage of an exchange of views upon the best modes of the culture of crops, of raising and caring for stock, of exhibiting the best implements in use, and the attainment of the other practical advantages which must be self-evident to every thoughtful mind, would amply repay the outlay of time, which need not amount to more than the last hours of a single day in each month.

THE BUTTER SYSTEM.

An address on the above subject was delivered to the American Dairymen's Association, at Utica, on the 14th instant, by Mr. O. S. Bliss, of Vermont. The address contained some very interesting and instructive facts regarding the difference between the New York and the Boston butter dealers. During the course of his remarks the speaker related a few incidents that occurred while he was looking about among the various butter dealers, seeking information on this subject. The first was, that while in Boston he accidentally ran upon a dealer who was just receiving a load of butter from a factory in Franklin county, New York, a section to which the Vermonters are united by a variety of ties. On examining the butter he found it to be a very choice product, such as is very seldom seen in a wholesale market in any city—such as is usually gobbled up by a certain class of dealers the moment it touches the consignee's floor. The packages were so carefully arranged that it was impossible to tell one from the other. Soon after that he spent a few days in New York among the dealers there, and examined a great many packages of choice butter, but was unable to find any superior to it in any way to that from Franklin county. The speaker further remarked that there is no stimulus to improvement like an honest discrimination on the part of the buyer between the different grades of goods. But the ordinary system of buying butter in all our country markets has not been sufficiently discriminating to have a thoroughly good effect. Human nature, he says, "is always and everywhere perverse. It is a waste of time and breath to attempt to talk men into a better course of doing their work, be it in the dairy or on the farm. You must make them feel that their interests are to be promoted, before you can induce any reformatory act."

At a meeting held in Malone for the purpose of organizing a Country Dairymen's Association, a remark was passed to the effect that no butter had been sold in that place for over thirty cents a pound which was not made in a factory. Such, however, was not the case, as it was proved by facts that the private dairies had all adopted precisely the same apparatus and modes of manufacture as were employed in the factories. Regarding the various cooling pans for shallow setting, the speaker says the Jewett pan, in at least one respect, was the best, from the manner of constructing the water attachment, whereby a constant flow of the water is kept up under every part of the pan, however small the supply. Below are a few reports sent to the speaker, and which he read to the meeting, showing the business of the factories in his district:

BERRY FACTORY, MALONE	
Whole number of pounds of milk	721,312
Whole number of pounds of butter	29,722
Whole number of pounds of milk for but-ter	24-3
Price at factory, summer	30⅜ cts.
Price at factory, fall	37

UNION FACTORY, BANGOR.	
Milk, pounds	266,184
Butter, pounds	10,904
Pounds of milk to one of butter	24-3
Butter contracted in the early summer at 30c for the season.	

BURNOP FACTORY, MOIRA.	
Milk, pounds	340,635
Butter, pounds	14,900
Milk for one pound of butter	22.87
Butter sold at factory for	30 cts.

BAILEY SPRING FACTORY, CHATEAUGAY.	
Milk, pounds	487,710
Butter, pounds	21,518½
Milk for one pound of butter	22 61-100
Price of butter	30 @ 35-100
Cost of manufacture	4

The price required for making butter in the factories mentioned ranged from three cents per pound. The great secret in making butter is the proper keeping of it before marketing. The trouble in making is, if anything, less than making cheese. Keep it in a cool place, apart from dirt and decaying vegetable matter and the butter will be all right, if the feed is good. This advice, we should think, would not come amiss to some of the large butter houses in New York city.

In the afternoon session there were some interesting discussion regarding cheese making. An impression that has been sown broadcast, that if you take two vats and skim one and make butter of the cream, and leave the other unskimmed, you will find the unskimmed cheese to weigh as much as both the skimmed cheese and butter together. This is surely an important fact and ought to be remembered. This skimming question is a very important and extensive among American dairymen and is the only cause that brings lower prices in foreign markets. A question was asked—and a very proper one—"What has been the cause of doubling of the production and of prices in American cheese in the last few years?" The answer was: "The improved quality has increased the demand. The Scotch curd is only kept up by not skimming the milk; for certainly unskimmed cheese brings higher prices." So by this it may be seen that if all the cheese manufacturers had been skimming there would have been no cause for a decline in the price, or, if there had been the difference in the weight would have been sufficient to counterbalance it.

IMPORTANCE OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE TO FARMERS.

A careful survey of the address of Hon. Horatio Seymour to the American Dairymen's Association, at Utica, on the subject of "The use of the Microscope in testing milk, cream, cheese, etc.," reveals some very important facts regarding the adulterations unknown to the unscientific. An application of the microscope to a minute object, in the crevice of a milk can, showed that it contained germs of animal or vegetable growth, which increase and multiply with fearful rapidity through a great mass of milk with which it comes in contact. The farmer finds out by this means all these unsuspected causes of disease from the can, and good care must be taken to keep all such collections entirely clear from his cans. Again, the application of this instrument to cause water taken from a pool from which one of his cows had been drinking, and which was the cause of the loss of all the milk mixed with that of this one cow, showed it contained the germs of both animal and vegetable putrefactions, which had entered the system of the cow, and thereby destroyed a vast amount of milk. This would naturally cause the farmer to have the pool removed.

Doubtless an examination of the food given to pigs as well as cows would show the cause of the so called hog cholera which every fall prevails throughout sections of the country. In the address he goes on to show "that one of the greatest mistakes of our farmers is, as a rule they think that the best way to secure what the quality and value of farm products than is known by those whose labor produces them." The reason was because the buyer had tests which the farmer did not and therefore one was the microscope. This one instance alone is surely enough to convince the seller that a test is of great value, because if the buyer, by this agency, finds impurities in the article the price is surely to be lowered. At the close of the address Mr. Hawley, of Onondaga, offered the following resolutions: That the farmers of this State have long understood the value and progress of scientific investigations on botany, entomology and geology, and this association hereby requests the Legislature of New York to continue its support of the researches now going on in these branches of useful and practical knowledge. Would not resolutions of this kind offered by those classe of associations all over the country be a great benefit to them, to their patrons, and to the general public.

POTASH FOR TREES AND VINES.

The Cleveland *Herald* says: The value of potash as a supply food in a manurial sense applied to pear and peach trees and grape vines has been so far but little understood or appreciated by tree or vine growers. As early as 1842 we embraced the theory of soils and adaptative manures specially to a purpose in connection with fruit-growing, and in that respect yearly since, of application and observation, we become more and more convinced that in it is the kernel of manurial or food application to plant life.

We have always advised potash—taking our basis therefore from the fact that upon all newly cleared timber lands where the wood has been burned or charred, the first crop raised, we have for a long series of years a healthy and vigorous growth of plant life. Taking up this point and study ing chemical analysis of trees and plants, we have found that wood ashes, leached, copperas, lime, bone meal, land-plaster, etc., and always with good results. A recent speaker before the Cincinnati Horticultural Society gave as his opinion that the best way of using his use of a weak potash ley applied, two quarts each, to peach trees. He asserts it to have given health to his trees, to have made an increased and more perfect crop, and to have formed the buds favorable for the coming years' crop. Now while we regard this as an item of fact, we have not full faith in the belief of it as a practical support and supply of tree and fruit. It may be his case have been true but with the use of this ley, there was doubtless, in his soil certain other requisite ingredients of vegetable life that perhaps without this application of potash, he would not have readily become soluble and supportive.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 27, 1873.

Three votes of more than usual significance were taken in the House this afternoon. The first was that on the proposition of the District Board of Public Works, looking to the assumption by Congress of a liberal portion of the debt which they have lately imposed on the District, which was defeated by a much more decisive and emphatic vote than the opponents of the Board and the policy had ever before been able to command, indicating that this Congress will make no further appropriations for its relief.

Next came the attempt of Southern members to obtain a vote of instruction to the Ways and Means Committee to do what they are certain not to do, except under explicit orders, namely, report a bill refunding the cotton tax of fifty or sixty millions dollars. The result of this operation was an ignominious failure, only seventy-six members voting for the proposition, and one hundred and five against it. In affirmation were, with hardly an exception, all the Southern members who have made the question one of locality instead of justice and merit, two Republicans from the Northern States, Duell, of New York, and Dunnell, of Minnesota, Voorhees, Perry, McNeely and half dozen less known Democrats. In the face of this vote it is morally certain that no scheme for refunding the cotton tax can be brought before the house this session with any prospect of success, though the Ways and Means Committee will devote another session to the subject tomorrow.

Having shown something of its temper by these two votes, the House next took up Gen. Farnesworth's motion to concur in the Senate amendments to the bill repealing the franking privilege, and agreed to them by a majority which was a surprise to every one. A feeble attempt was made to tack on one or two amendments, which would give the Senate another chance to take the responsibility of killing the bill, but Farnesworth would not admit them, and the vote was taken directly and on the simple proposition of repeal. Forty-eight members only failed to record their privilege and 143, or many more than the necessary two-thirds, to dispense entirely with it. As would naturally be expected, nearly all the members whose terms expire on the 4th of March voted for the repeal, only sixteen of those who retire at that time voting to continue the privilege to their successors. Nearly all the negative votes were give by the Republicans, the most prominent on that side being Kelley, Maynard, Myers, Sawyer with the Democrats, Wood and Eldridge.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Expression Against Unnecessary Legislation—Loyalhanna Railroad Company—Bill to Authorize Mining and Manufacturing Companies to Hold Notes—Unsuccessful Efforts for Adjournment Till Tuesday Next—Laud Bills Reported.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, January 23, 1873.

The Judiciary Committee reported a number of bills with a negative recommendation, for the reason that the courts had power. So it is settled that no bill will pass the Senate where the courts have power to grant relief. A supplement to the act incorporating the borough of Waynesburg and an act relating to the pay of officers in Fayette county were reported from committee.

Mr. Randall read in place an act incorporating the Loyalhanna Railroad Company. The corporators are Robert Pitcairn, Thos. Donalne, James M. Creighton, Thos. F. Gallagher, A. B. Copeland, John Snodgrass, A. M. Patton and J. A. Marchand. The road is to commence at the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, between Latrobe and Greensburg, and extend to the Western Pennsylvania Railroad.

By Mr. McClure—To change the election law of the city of Philadelphia.

By Mr. Graham—To authorize mining and manufacturing companies to give and banks to hold mortgages, notes, &c.; [Given below in full], also to incorporate the Federal Homestead and Trust Company of Allegheny city.

By Mr. Wallace—An act relating to taxing timber and coal lands.

A bill was passed repealing the cumulative law so far as the same relates to Connellsville, Fayette county.

There were two efforts made to adjourn over from to-day until next week—one a Senate resolution to adjourn over until Monday morning, and the other a joint resolution from the House to adjourn over until Tuesday. Both resolutions were defeated by large majorities, which commits the Senate in opposition to long adjournments.

Mr. Graham resigned from the Committee on Vice and Immorality, for the reason that he was on more committees than he could attend.

An act relating to special courts in Fayette county was passed.

Senators Graham, Alexander and Wallace were appointed on the committee to fit up the Governor's mansion.

Adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

The following is the bill presented by Senator Graham, referred to above:

Be it enacted, &c., That it shall be lawful for mining and manufacturing companies, organized under any general or special law of this Commonwealth, to execute and deliver, and for banks and bankers organized by law of this Commonwealth to take and hold, mortgages on real estate to secure the payment of such notes, bills and other negotiable paper, and such mortgages may be made to and held by said companies, as the said banks shall agree thereafter and from time to time discount; *provided*, that such mortgage shall operate as a lien from the time of the record of such instrument; *and provided*, that every such mortgage heretofore given and taken *bona fide* is hereby validated and affirmed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at eleven o'clock. Nearly the whole morning hour was exhausted in debate to adjourn over till Tuesday. Monday evening was finally fixed.

Reports from committees being in order, a whole raft of local bills were reported which will be printed and put on the regular calendar for Monday.

Mr. Wainwright read a supplement for the Arsenal Bank.

Mr. Newmeyer—An act to incorporate the McKeesport Insurance Company.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 24, 1873.

SENATE.

Petitions were presented as follows:

By Mr. Graham—For the repeal of the charter of the East Liberty plank road company.

By Mr. Wallace—To prevent the importation of Chinese.

The following bills were reported from committees:

Appropriating twenty-five thousand dollars to the Harrisburg Lunatic Asylum, to replace wash house and machinery destroyed by fire. Passed.

Act regulating license and other fees paid by foreign insurance companies.

Supplement to Shoe and Leather Bank of Pittsburgh.

To incorporate the Indiana County Bank.

To incorporate the Hoboken Real Estate Savings Bank of Pittsburgh, with amendment.

The act to apply the Local Option law to McKeesport was negatived.

Bills were read as follows:

By Mr. Graham—To incorporate the Compound Trust Bank of Pittsburgh, with Thomas Steel, Wm. Phillips, Hoboken Real Estate Savings Bank of Pittsburgh, with amendment.

The act to apply the Local Option law to McKeesport was negatived.

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A bill was passed repealing the cumulative law so far as the same relates to Connellsville, Fayette county.

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Mr. Wainwright read a supplement for the Arsenal Bank.

Mr. Newmeyer—An act to incorporate the McKeesport Insurance Company.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 24, 1873.

SENATE.

Petitions were presented as follows:

By Mr. Graham—For the repeal of the charter of the East Liberty plank road company.

By Mr. Wallace—To prevent the importation of Chinese.

The following bills were reported from committees:

Appropriating twenty-five thousand dollars to the Harrisburg Lunatic Asylum, to replace wash house and machinery destroyed by fire. Passed.

Act regulating license and other fees paid by foreign insurance companies.

Supplement to Shoe and Leather Bank of Pittsburgh.

To incorporate the Indiana County Bank.

To incorporate the Hoboken Real Estate Savings Bank of Pittsburgh, with amendment.

The act to apply the Local Option law to McKeesport was negatived.

Bills were read as follows:

By Mr. Graham—To incorporate the Compound Trust Bank of Pittsburgh, with Thomas Steel, Wm. Phillips, Hoboken Real Estate Savings Bank of Pittsburgh, with amendment.

By Mr. McClure—To change the election law of the city of Philadelphia.

By Mr. Graham—To authorize mining and manufacturing companies to give and banks to hold mortgages, notes, &c.; [Given below in full], also to incorporate the Federal Homestead and Trust Company of Allegheny city.

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THE CREDIT MOBILIER.

COMING TO FINE POINTS.

Oakes Ames Cross-Examined by Judge Kelly and Mr. Colfax.

Highly Interesting Colloquies.

WASHINGTON, January 24.—At the sitting of Poland's Credit Mobilier Committee this morning, the representative of Oakes Ames, D. Kelley cross-examined Oakes Ames. The witness reiterated his testimony that he held as property of Kelley ten shares of Credit Mobilier stock. They became Kelley's property in 1868, when he paid for them. The dividends witness also held for Kelley; he also held for him ten shares of Union Pacific stock, which came into his hands early in 1868. Altogether, witness holds forty or fifty shares of Union Pacific stock, and some income bonds, which belong to Kelley. The Credit Mobilier stock, witness holds for Kelley thirty or forty shares of Union Pacific stock and some income bonds.

Mr. Kelley then examined Ames as follows:

Question—Can you furnish the committee with a list of the property you hold for me? Answer—Yes, sir; I think I can by to-morrow.

Question—How did I pay you for the Credit Mobilier stock? Answer—In the first place you were to pay me $1,000 for stock and interest.

Question—Did you ask me to take the Credit stock, or did you ask me to take it? Answer—I don't remember now; but I know you took it. I had loaned Kelley money prior to Credit Mobilier stock was issued.

Question—How soon can you deliver my ten shares of Credit Mobilier stock and dividends. Answer—[Producing a certificate of Credit Mobilier stock]—I do not know that it has been delivered to you, sir, and the dividends you can have soon.

Mr. Kelley—Hand them to the chairman, with list of dividends, for my use.

Mr. Ames—[Handing the certificates to Judge Poland]—If you say you don't own them, I don't see how you are entitled to dividends.

Mr. Kelley—But you say I do own them, and I intend to make use of them.

Mr. Ames—Certainly, sir; that is what I agree to perfectly.

Question—When I receive these from the chairman, will I or not, be your debtor? Answer—I do not know.

Question—How does that come? Answer—If you receive all the dividends and I don't choose to pay, you will have a claim. This is what I loaned you. The Credit Mobilier stock was all paid for by the first dividend of bonds and the cash dividend in June following.

Question—Have you ever

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Supplement for Local Option Law, Concerning Allegheny County—Private Calendar Day in the House—Joint Convention to Hear Appeals from Centennial Commission for an Appropriation from the State.

Special to the Pittsburg Press.
HARRISBURG, Pa., January 28, 1873.

SENATE.

Mr. Rutan presented a petition from the miners in the bituminous coal region, asking protection.

Bills in Place.

Mr. Humphreys—Supplement to act incorporating the Chartiers Valley Improvement Company.

Mr. Graham—Act relating to the sinking fund of Allegheny county; also, supplement to act to permit the voters of this Commonwealth to vote every three years on the question of granting licenses to sell liquor, which is as follows:

Whereas, Doubts have arisen in the minds of some as to whether the act to which this is a supplement has not been repealed so far as regards the county of Allegheny by "an act to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors in the county of Allegheny," approved April 3, 1872; therefore,

Be it enacted, &c., That the last said mentioned act was not intended to repeal the act to which this is a supplement, but the same is declared to be in full force and effect as if the act of the 3d of April, 1872, had not been passed, and that the election provided for under said act of March, 1872, shall be held on the third Friday of March, 1873, and every third year thereafter, in the several wards, boroughs and townships in said county.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House spent all day on the private calendar, but few bills of Western interest being considered.

Centennial Appropriation.

The National Centennial Commissioners are here asking an appropriation. The Senate met the House to hear a talk from the Commissioners. Hon. Daniel J. Morrell opened the talk, and was followed by the venerable Eli K. Price. Colonel Wood, of Virginia, was introduced next, by Col. McIlvaine as one who had led his division in Pickett's corps, at Gettysburg, in trying to break up this government, and now a member of the Centennial Commission, doing his best to cement the Union which he had vainly tried to sunder. Col. Woods is quite a young looking man, and with a charming voice. No doubt of the House ring with an eloquent appeal on behalf of the celebration. At a late hour the Convention was still in session.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.
HARRISBURG, January 29, 1873.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday morning was spent upon the first private calendar of the session. No Western bills were objected to, although Mr. Brockway, of Columbia, and Mr. Orvis, of Center, repeatedly called the attention of the House to the fact that the Courts had power. But an excuse was generally found and the mill went on.

Senate bill No. 5, an act to erect into a corporation the members of the Union Regular Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, and the First Baptist Church, that is, those who have signed the articles of Union, was passed finally.

Several bills appointing additional notary publics in Western counties were amended so as to authorize the Governor to use his judgment and appoint as many as he may think necessary. This has been already proposed in the Senate, but defeated.

Mr. McCormick had an act repealing an act for the better protection of miners extended to Allegheny county.

A great many bills are here for relieving church property from taxation, except for State purposes.

Mr. Newmeyer's usury bill will be on the public calendar for Thursday. It is substantially the same bill as that passed by the Massachusetts Legislature some years ago. You have already published it.

The Cloak Room Saloon.

Over an hour was spent this morning on a resolution relative to keeping liquor in the cloak room. Mr. McMahon, of Franklin, stated that the page boys had got at it and some became intoxicated. A resolution prohibiting it passed by a vote of 91 to 3.

Constitutional Convention Debates.

Mr. Young, of Allegheny, introduced a resolution to print an extra number of the debates of the Constitutional Convention.

Speaker Elliot left the chair and made a violent speech against it. He said he did not want a copy of the debates in his house, when it contained the denunciations it did of the Legislature, and the assertion at this late day that railroads were a curse to the country. The tenor of the debates in the Constitutional Convention had damaged it. He was opposed to printing any of them.

Mr. Mitchell, of Tioga, followed in a bitterly sarcastic speech against printing any of the proceedings. He said the wise men of that Convention had sat silent. The vain had given vent to their vapid talk.

The resolution to print was lost by a large vote.

Avalanche of Bills.

Reports from committees were in order, and every one of the thirty committees of the House poured out a perfect avalanche of bills. They will all be printed and put on the calendar for next Tuesday.

To-morrow, Thursday, is public bill day. The first bill on the calendar is No. 14, an act relating to the rates of interest in this Commonwealth. This is the Newmeyer usury bill. Its consideration will probably be postponed after a short debate, as its friends hardly think the House is ready to pass it on short notice.

All the committees were again in session late to-night grinding out bills by the bushel.

SENATE.

Reports from Committees.

Mr. White, from the Judiciary, general, made a report in reference to the manner of incorporating insurance companies, showing that the Courts have increased powers, and that charters passed by the Legislature, where such powers exist, are of no use. Ordered to be printed.

Supplement to act relating to executions.

Supplement to act consolidating the several wards of Pittsburgh for educational purposes.

Mr. Davis—Act to consolidate the several gaming laws.

Mr. Playford—Act to validate certain proceedings on mortgages.

Mr. Graham—Act to incorporate the Standard Nut Company of Pittsburgh; also, incorporating the Christian Mission Church.

Bills Passed.

For the completion of the H. V. and C. R. R., extending time; incorporating the Indiana County Depeolt Bank, and Captain Batchelor's bill relative to banks taking mortgages as collateral security. He appeared before the General Judiciary Committee of the House this afternoon on behalf of his bill, and the committee agree to report it affirmatively.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., January 28, 1873.

The corridors in both Houses have been crowded to-day with a delegation from Philadelphia to urge on the Legislature an appropriation of *a million of dollars* for the Centennial celebration in that city in 1876. This large appropriation is asked for very coolly, as if it were a matter of course, and is Philadelphia in manner, throughout. A million is talked of as lightly as men ordinarily talk of a dollar. The two Houses meet informally to-night to hear this delegation spout. They will be heard attentively, but I much mistake the temper of the members generally if they can be brought to make any such appropriation.

The calculation is, I understand, that the citizens of Philadelphia will give $1,000,000; corporations in the city $500,000; the State is asked to give $1,000,000; the city $500,000—making $3,000,000 in all, in addition to the $10,000,000 to be raised throughout the country by stock subscriptions. A grand total of *thirteen millions*—and what for? To make a big show, put up magnificent buildings for a World's Fair, and enable the American Eagle to spread herself to the full extent of her ample wings; New York is to be humbled, and Boston made to hide her head forever.

Now, the Centennial is a grand occasion and one worthy of elaborate celebration; but is it worth that cost? It may be worth two millions to Philadelphia in the way of trade; but in what way can it benefit the State to the extent of a million, or even a tithe of a that sum? I can well understand why Philadelphia should want to outshine all her rivals, on the occurrence of such an occasion; but in my judgment the commercial prosperity and material aggrandizement of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania will depend hereafter as heretofore on their inherent advantages and capacities, and not on any display that may be got up at the Centennial. A World's Fair is well enough in its way; but if it cannot pay for itself it had better not be held. Celebrate the Centennial, by all means, but do it in a reasonable and modest way, that will cost something less than either thirteen or three millions of dollars.

For be it remembered, it is not Philadelphia or Pennsylvania that is to be glorified in celebrating the Centennial. Philadelphia is the place was the memorable Declaration of Independence was proclaimed in 1776; but it is the *event* we are called on to celebrate, on the recurrence of its hundredth anniversary, and not the place in which it occurred. We are to do honor to the memory of the men who proclaimed the bold truth that all men are created equal; but it does not follow that the glory with which we are to surround *their* head should be changed into a halo around the brow of the city in which they held their sittings. Most certainly the people of Pennsylvania can do full honor to the men of 1776 without spending a million of dollars in doing it. If those men could rise from their graves they could dictate much wiser uses to which that sum could be put.

To my mind, the part of this generation have already paid the highest possible compliment to the memory of the heroes of 1776, by carrying into practice the theories they so boldly enunciated. They proclaimed grand truths —so grand that the world stood in awe and admiration at their utterance; but they did not put them into practical operation. They proclaimed the essential equality of men in the possession of human rights; but they left to us the legacy of human slavery. They grappled with that wrong in theory, and the people of this generation have grappled with it in fact, putting the theory into practical operation. We have justified their judgment, and honored them in their memories in so doing, and the abolition of slavery stands, to-day, a higher monument to their wisdom than all the Centennial celebrations that can be got up. Still the Centennial should go on. It is a proper and wise celebration, and it is perhaps to be expected that the State should bear a hand in the cost. But there is no need for this magnificence in expenditures. The State cannot afford it, nor is there any real need for it. The State will pay her share; but these gentlemen of liberal ideas, who stand so ready to spend other people's money, must moderate their plans, and be content with less magnificence than they have projected. It is not worth while to spend a million in mere grandeur of display.

There is a bill here, not yet introduced, to put all the roads, highways, and bridges in Allegheny county into the hands of a commission of nine men, with power to levy a tax of ten mills on the dollar, annually, issue bonds *ad libitum*, and buy and build bridges and make roads at their own sweet will. Nice project, isn't it? If the people want this, it is all right, but if not, they had better speak out and let their wish be known. It is to be regretted that the author of this scheme could not have hit upon a better plan that that of a commission, for such a purpose. Just now, when "commissions" are growing in bad repute, and when the experience of other people has proved that power placed in irresponsible hands is sure to be abused, is surely a poor time for venturing upon such an experiment in Allegheny county. My impression is that "commissions" are going out, as they say of the fashions.

The routine work was gone through in both Houses, to-day, but no bills of any importance passed. The usual number was read in place.

The nomination of Hon. Thomas J. Bigham, of your county, for Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Mining and Labor, was promptly confirmed by the Senate, by a unanimous vote. Mr. Bigham is here, and ready to go to work. The place runs for two years, and the pay is $2,500 per annum. I am glad to record this appointment; it is the right man in the right place.

In the House, last night, Mr. Brockway, of Columbia, tried to make a little capital by introducing a resolution requiring the Auditor General to inform the House what taxes are now due the Commonwealth from different canals, railroads and telegraphs now operating in this State, or that have been doing business therein for eight years past, specifying particularly the nature of the tax, the amount and date when it becomes due; also, whether all of said companies or corporations during the past eight years have made full returns to the Auditor General, as required by existing laws or rules of the Auditor General's office, with names of the companies, if any so refusing or neglecting, the causes therefor, and the particulars wherein they have failed.

Mr. Brockway tried hard, during the late campaign, to make it appear that Mr. Hartranft had been guilty of neglect of duty as Auditor General, in not making these corporations pay all the taxes to which they are liable by our State laws, crediting from the public the fact that the question of the constitutionality of a large portion of these taxes is now in suit before the United States Supreme Court for some years, and that the question is not yet decided; and that pending the decision, the State has been unable, legally, to force the collection of the levies whose legality was thus disputed. This resolution of his was a step in the same direction. It was a trick to get out the fact, officially, that the taxes had been levied which have not been collected, without bringing with it the other fact that they have not been collected because they are in suit.

Mr. Brockway's resolution, after a discussion lasting until near midnight, was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, by a vote of 46 to 31, and so that little piece of demagogism was spoiled.

The House did a good thing to-day. A bill was up to authorize the Governor to appoint an additional Notary Public in Lebanon, and the House made it a general bill, authorizing the Governor to appoint as many notaries, anywhere, as he may deem necessary. The Senate will concur in this, and this will cut off another fruitful source of special legislation. There are not less than fifty bills now here for appointing additional notaries, and this general bill takes the place of all. SPECIAL.

The Great Scandal

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29, 1873.

JAMES BROOKS FURTHER EXPLAINS.

At the sittings of the Poland Committee this morning, James Brooks appeared and desired to make a record of the fact that in the printed exhibit of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, January 6th, in the suit of McComb against the Credit Mobilier, was filed and sworn to a list of the Credit Mobilier stockholders, dated December 12th, 1867. In that list is Charles H. Neilson, one hundred and fifty shares, that thereby nearly three months before Brooks became a member or Government Director it was a matter of notoriety in the highest court of Pennsylvania that Neilson owned one hundred and fifty shares in his own name. Brooks also desired a record of the names of all the Government Directors when he was one—such names as George Ashmen, of Massachusetts; James S. Rollins, of Missouri; Jesse L. Wilson, of Indiana; Benjamin Wade, of Ohio, and others, and to facts on record in the Union Pacific Railroad books that these directors generally, if not always, were in accord with him (Brooks) as to their duties, and that during that time John A. Dix, Governor of New York, was President of the road, and Senator Morgan, of New York, one of the trustees of the bonds of the road. Mr. Brooks also referred to the October meeting of the seventy-two Union Pacific Directors, when the resolution of his revocation of the Wyoming Coal Company contract passed.

On interrogation, Mr. Brooks testified that he held his directorship a year and never heard of the authorization by the Directors of [illegible] saw it yesterday; claimed that these fifty shares were for him by virtue of a contract with Durant; had no knowledge as to who paid the five thousand dollars loaned Neilson by Dillon; was sure he (witness) didn't, but supposed Neilson did; check book showed no such check given.

Sidney Dillon recalled—Remembered loaning the $5,000 to Neilson, who gave as collaterals Union Pacific stock and bonds; supposed the money was repaid by Neilson.

MR. COLFAX REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL.

Ex-Representative Robert S. Hale, of New York, appeared before the committee and stated that he was present as the friend and counsel of Vice President Colfax; that he was now engaged in making a thorough examination of all his papers and letters, and upon concluding such examination he would appear before the committee to testify in his own behalf. And he would also ask that some witnesses be examined. Mr. Colfax had requested the speaker to say that as to the $1,200 check deposited to his credit, as appears by the books of the First National Bank, he would show that that check was from another source. Mr. Hale said he desired to put a question to Mr. Swain, and he would then ask the indulgence of the committee until Mr. Colfax should complete the examination of his papers.

Mr. Swain was then recalled and examined by Mr. Hale. He testified that on the same day Colfax deposited $1,200 he cashed $1,000, and purchased a draft on New York, which he indorsed over to A. H. Conner, of Indianapolis.

Mr. Hale stated he should desire to call Mr. Colfax and other witnesses as soon as he had made a reasonable examination of his papers.

BOOKS AND PAPERS FAIL TO ARRIVE.

Judge Poland then asked Mr. Ames if the books and papers called for had arrived. Ames replied they had not. The mails were behind, but he expected them.

SENATOR PATTERSON AGAIN.

Judge Poland then read the following check:

"WASHINGTON, January 22, 1868.

"$1,500. "Sergeant-at-Arms United States House of Representatives, pay to J. W. Patterson, or bearer, eighteen hundred dollars, and charge to account. "OAKES AMES."

Indorsed "J. W. Patterson."

Question—For what was this $1,800 paid? Answer—Dividends on thirty shares of Credit Mobilier stock.

Question—Have you any other receipt from Patterson? Answer—I have.

The witness produced the following:

"WASHINGTON, February 14, 1868.—Received of Oakes Ames three hundred and twenty-nine dollars for three bonds of U. P. R. R. Co., sold for me, being a dividend of eighty per cent. in bonds or stock of Credit Mobilier of America, held by him as trustee on my account. [Signed] J. W. PATTERSON."

To this was appended the following: "2,400 bonds at 97, $2,328; interest paid $105; paid cash $2,328."

Witness testified that the figures were made at the time the receipt was given, but he did not remember whether they were made by Patterson or himself. The receipt itself was written by Patterson.

Mr. Ames then stated that Mr. Patterson would like to appear before the committee to make some further explanation, and he would be glad if he would do so.

CONCERNING MR. SCOFIELD AND MR. DAWES.

Mr. Ames was then examined at length in regard to some checks given by him on the Sergeant-at-Arms. One for $600, marked "S. C.," and dated June 22, 1868, was to pay Scofield. The memorandum of witness showed that it was given him to "square things" to the sixty per cent. dividend on ten shares of Credit Mobilier stock.

Question—There is another to pay a draft of twelve hundred dollars, to whom was that given? Answer—I don't know. I suppose it was a draft I got on New York or Boston.

Question—Did Dawes receive any money from you? Answer—No, the Sergeant-at-Arms?

Answer—I think he did.

Question—Did you find anything on the books given to Dawes? Answer—On my memorandum I have Dawes $600, less $200.

Question—You think you paid him $400. and was it by a check on the Sergeant-at-Arms? Answer—I can't tell; the books will show. I think I paid it by check on the Sergeant-at-Arms.

THOSE WHO RETURNED STOCK.

Witness resumed—Scofield, Dawes and Logan went out after the dividend of sixty per cent. Witness said that Mr. Allison sent his stock back, and said he would have nothing more to do with it. Witness supposed Allison had really given it up. Allison had an idea that there was an excited political contest in his State, and he preferred not to have stock. Witness supposed the stock being returned to him by Allison was a real transaction and not a nominal one; had had no agreement with him about the matter, though he received a bond and cash dividend, but the bond and stock certificates witness still held. Witness had no recollection of Allison returning the $329 dividend included in the check on New York in the settlement of another matter.

AMES AND GARFIELD.

Witness being questioned in regard to conversations with Garfield, said: I can't remember all he conversed about. The conversations I had with him would be injurious to him, and I am a bad man to repeat conversations. It will injure his reputation.

Question—Did he make any request of you to omit any statement in regard to it? Answer—I am not positive about that. My impression is he wanted me to say as little as I could, that he might get off as easy as he could.

Question—Have you memorandum relating to the transaction between you and Garfield? Answer—Yes, sir.

Ames produced a piece of paper upon which were the following figures: $1,000, $1,000, $400; total $2,400," and testified that inquiries were made by Garfield. The first $1,000 referred to Union Pacific Railroad bonds, the second to Credit Mobilier stock, and the $400 to something else, he could not remember now.

Question—Was that what he received, or what he was entitled to? Answer—What he is entitled to, though I think he is in error about the $400.

Question—Did he put this down as his recollection of the transaction between you? Answer—Yes sir.

Mr. Merrick—I understand, in substance, that he wished you to state as little as possible about it? Mr. Ames—Yes, that is my desire, too.

Mr. Merrick—Well, Mr. Ames, allow me to state that we want you to state all you know. Mr. Ames—I have stated, to the best of my memory, all I know. The figures were made on a piece of paper on a table in my room at the time of the conversation. I did not pay any attention to them for four days afterward. When I found there was a conflict in our testimony I preserved them.

THE CONVERSATION WITH JUDGE KELLEY.

Mr. Ames further testified that he had a conversation with Judge Kelley about a transaction. Kelley said he called it a loan, and had so stated, and said to witness he wanted to pay that loan. Witness replied he did not so consider it. Kelley said he would give me a check on his bank, and wanted to know when he should date it. I told him it would make no difference. He gave me a check. That was before his investigation commenced, and I tore it in half and handed it back to him.

Question—What did he say when you tore it in two and handed it back? Answer—Both of us appeared a little flurried with the transaction. [Laughter.] I did not consider that he owed me anything, but I owed him and told him so. He did not deny it.

Question—He wanted to call it something else? Answer—That is the way I understood him. He wanted to be clear of the transaction.

Mr. Ames said it was important that he should leave for his home to-night; the committee could get along without him now as the question of bribery had been settled, and all the committee wanted to know now was whether he or some one else lied. Adjourned until to-morrow morning.

A RECUSANT WITNESS.

The Wilson Committee this morning recalled Joseph B. Stewart and desired him to make a statement concerning the manner of his disbursement of the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars received by him, as stated in his former testimony in money and bonds of the Union Pacific Railroad from Durant and Hallet. Witness declined to answer, saying such money was received as counsel. Witness after repeated questioning still refused to answer, saying he would not speak of dealings with his client.

Question—Did you deliver bonds to any newspaper correspondents? Answer—That is repeating your question. But for the credit of these gentlemen, I say I did not.

Question—Did you deliver them to newspaper proprietors? Answer—I decline to answer, for two of them are my clients.

Question—Where do they live? Answer—That is immaterial to the purpose of this examination.

Question—Do they live in Washington? Answer—I decline to answer.

A FLAT CONTRADICTION.

James F. Wilson here said he had telegraphed J. M. S. Williams to the effect that Spence yesterday testified that Williams told Spence to give Wilson a check for $19,000, March 9, 1871, and asked Williams, "did you do it at that time or any other?" to which telegraph Williams replied, "I never gave him directions to give check for any portion of the $19,000. Do not believe you had anything to do with it. My recollection is that Dodge, chairman of the committee, had the whole direction of it.

THE COMMITTEE CONSULT PRIVATELY.

The committee then requested the gentlemen to retire, as they wished to hold a private conversation, evidently with reference to the refusal of Stewart to answer the question propounded by the committee.

A WILD CONTRACT.

The committee resumed its session and examined Horace F. Clark, President of the Union Pacific Road. He had heard of the note given by the company to the Credit Mobilier for $2,000,000, but as the condition on which it was given had been discharged he felt satisfied to omit it from his pamphlet, it being no part of the indebtedness of the company.

Mr. Hoar asked witness whether the directors of the company had had any idea that they could not have built the six hundred and sixty-seven miles built under the Ames contract cheaper than it was by Oakes Ames, who was connected with the company? Witness replied that he thought that was the wildest contract ever made by civilized man.

The committee adjourned till to-morrow.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29, 1873.

The Franking Privilege Repeal.

The Senate was occupied this afternoon in a protracted and rather undignified attempt to revenge itself upon the Postmaster General for his success in securing the repeal of the franking privilege, by depriving him of clerks and otherwise reducing the facilities of his office. The abolition of the franking privilege will not materially affect the business of the general department in this city, but the Senate has considerably reduced the force to be employed by the Postmaster General. Slow progress was made with the Legislative Appropriation bill, on which the retrenchment economists were exercising their skill, and it will take a day or two longer yet.

Colorado Admission.

The Colorado admission bill, which has occupied the morning hour of the House for the past two or three weeks, received its quietus to-day, and will henceforth lie peacefully on the Speaker's table. The vote against the bill, with all its amendments, was almost two to one, and even without the Hooper amendment, admitting Utah, it would have been nearly as large. The debate yesterday and to-day has been enlivened by a sharp running fight between Delegates Hooper, of Utah, and Claggett, of Montana, upon the old question of the Mormon policy and institutions. Mr. Hooper to-day made an earnest defense of his people, claiming that woman suffrage and minority representation placed them at the front of the reform movement of to-day, stating that ninety per cent. of the Utah householders live on their own lands, and claiming complete loyalty and a prosperous future for the Territory.

A General Railroad Law.

The House has passed without discussion or division the general railroad law granting the right of way to any railroad company incorporated under the territorial laws, with the privilege of twenty acres of land, every ten miles for station and other legitimate purposes. Roads not completed in five years after the formation of companies lose their right of way. Territories are prohibited from loaning credit to the companies, also counties and municipalities, except by a two-thirds vote of actual resident taxpayers. Indian and military reservations are excepted from the operations of the act.

BELOW ZERO.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
COLUMBUS, OHIO, January 29, 1873.

At daylight this morning the thermometer on the line of Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad ranged as follows: Dennison, Ohio, thirty-six below zero; at Bowerstown, Ohio, forty-one; Newmarket, Ohio, thirty-six; Dresden, Ohio, twenty-four; Coshocton, Ohio, twenty-five; Richmond, Ind., thirty; Knightstown, Ind., thirty; Logansport, Ind., twenty-four; Hagarstown, twenty-five; Hartford City, Ind., twenty-five; Louis Crossing and Crown Point, twenty-eight; Stilson, Ind., twenty-five.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
ZANESVILLE, OHIO, January 29, 1873.

The thermometer at six o'clock this morning stood at twenty-seven degrees below zero.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
MANSFIELD, OHIO, January 29, 1873.

Throughout this section of the country the weather this morning was the coldest within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. In this city at eight o'clock the thermometer showed twenty-two degrees in the upper and twenty-nine in the lower portion of the city below zero; at Crestline twenty-six degrees; at Wooster twenty-two; at Lucas, Richland county, thirty-two; Londonville, Ashland county, thirty-two; Lawrence, Stark county, twenty-six; Alliance, Stark county, twenty-four; Columbiana, thirty; Leetonia, Columbiana county, twenty-four; West Salem, Wayne county, thirty; Tiffin, twenty-four; Lima, twenty-seven; Bucyrus, twenty-eight; Upper Sandusky, twenty-nine; Van Wert, twenty-one; Ft. Wayne, Indiana, twenty-three to thirty-one; Warsaw, thirty; Erie, Pa., twelve; Homewood, Beaver county, Pa., twenty—all below zero.

FORT WAYNE, IND., January 29.—This has been by far the coldest day of the season, the thermometer this morning ranging from 23 to 31 degrees below zero, according to location. The sleighing could not be better.

CINCINNATI, O., January 29.—To-day has been pronounced the severest of the winter in point of cold. The reports from Dalton, Lawrence county, Mount Holly, New Albany, Indiana, and in Cincinnati the mercury was three below zero at seven this morning. Dispatches report Alexandria, twenty-eight below; Lima twenty-seven below; Dayton fifteen below; Piqua twenty-two; Troy eighteen; Tippecanoe seventeen; on the hills near ten below.

SANTA FE, N. M., January 29.—First snow of the season fell Sunday night, and is now about four inches on the ground, with the thermometer below zero yesterday morning. This morning two below.

ST. LOUIS, January 29.—The weather between six and nine o'clock this morning was the coldest of the season. The mercury sunk in the city and suburbs, according to locality, to from ten to twenty-four below zero, and in one town within a few miles it is said to have fallen to thirty-one below. About nine o'clock the wind veered to the south, since when the temperature has moderated very materially, thermometer now, ten P. M., marking two below.

THE BUSINESS OF PITTSBURGH.

Statistics of the Trade of 1872.

What Has Been Done in Iron, Coal, Petroleum, Produce, etc.

Large Increase in the Manufacture of Iron.

Growth of the Coal and Coke Trade.

Receipts of Pig Iron, Iron Ore and Blooms—Weekly Prices of Pig Iron —Receipts and Shipments of Coal and Coke—Receipts of Crude and Shipments of Refined Oil—Weekly Prices of Oils—Receipts of Grain and General Produce, etc. etc.

Pittsburgh has been a long time in acquiring its proper status as a business center, but it has at length come to be regarded and acknowledged as one of the great manufacturing cities of the Union. The business not only of the entire county of Allegheny, but of a great portion of Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia centers here. Our growth in population is only excelled by our rapid increase in manufactures, mining, shipping and merchandising. The prosperity of Pittsburgh has a solid groundwork in the great staples of coal, iron, glass, petroleum, etc., and no other city in the Union possesses advantages so peculiar, and so certain to result in continued growth and development.

In Allegheny county the total population in 1860 was 178,831, and in 1870 the census shows 262,686—an increase in ten years of 83,855—or about forty-seven per cent. Taking the county as the real city of Pittsburgh, as in the cases of Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and other large cities, and we rank in proportion the seventh city in the Union—ahead of Boston, Cincinnati and New Orleans. By the census returns, however, which arbitrarily limit our population to the lines of the corporation, we are set down as having a population of 49,000, and ranking sixteenth in the list of cities—thus being deprived of proper credit for our position as an American city. It is true that, by the consolidation of the South Side boroughs, we have added about 35,000 inhabitants, making in all 121,000 within the corporate limits, which would make us rank the eleventh in the list of cities. To this should be added the population of Allegheny City, 54,000, making an aggregate of 175,000. But it is business, rather than population, that we now propose to deal with.

IRON.

The most important of all our industries is iron and its products. In 1870, in iron and steel alone, we had $26,692,680 invested as capital, and employed 15,541 hands. The increase in the number of rolling mills, furnaces, foundries, etc., is so rapid that the figures of one year furnish no data for the next. In 1863 we had 27 rolling mills, which had increased in 1871 to 43—an increase of 60 per cent. in eight years. During the same time the foundries and machine shops had increased from 45 to 75, or 68 per cent. Puddling furnaces increased from 262 in 1863, to 562 in 1871, or 115 per cent. The number of nail machines increased from 408 to 508, or 25 per cent. In 1863, 132,000 tons of metal were used by the mills, while in 1871 400,000 tons were consumed. The number of blast furnaces has largely increased, and the manufacture of pig iron here may be said to be in its infancy as yet. It required a long time to demonstrate that the ore could be carried to this city and smelted at a profit. Up to 1872 we had but five furnaces in blast, with the capacity of 1,000 tons per week. During the last year, four new furnaces were erected and are now in successful operation, turning out 1,700 tons of metal per week. These nine furnaces now produce annually about 150,000 tons. The total consumption of raw iron in this city, in 1872, was not less than 600,000 tons, so that we have had to draw from abroad 450,000 tons to supply the demands of the year. Several other furnaces are projected, and the time is not far distant, in the opinion of those experienced in the business, when all the raw iron consumed here will be the product of our own furnaces. There is no reason why this should not be so. The total product of pig iron in the United States for the year 1870, was 2,045,198 tons, so that Pittsburgh consumed over one-fourth of the whole production of the country.

As will be seen by reference to our tables given below, the total receipts of pig iron, iron ore and blooms, at Pittsburgh, for 1872, was 496,648 tons, against 367,207 tons in 1871. The amount of Lake Superior ore received here in 1872 was 81,630 tons, against 48,080 tons in 1871. Of iron Mountain ore we consumed in 1872, 67,630 tons, against 36,390 tons in 1871. There have also been used 20,580 tons of Lake Champlain ore (the first ever used here) and 4,010 tons of "native" ores.

Pennsylvania still holds her proud position as the foremost State in the Union in the production of iron, having produced 1,972,536 tons of pig, out of the total of 2,046,123 tons manufactured in the United States in 1871; and 1,065,686 tons of ore out of the total product of 3,210,918 tons mined in the same year.

Pittsburgh is doing her full share toward keeping our State in the front rank in this respect, and had we the time to follow the pig iron through our rolling mills, machine shops, foundries, etc., and give the various products, some idea might be formed of the magnitude of this city as a manufacturing center.

COAL AND COKE.

Our statistics of the coal trade for the past year exhibit a very large increase over previous years, as the following summary will show:

	Coal.	Total.
1870—By river	44,262,000	
1872—By rail	23,128,725—67,388,725	
1871—By river	50,864,600	
1872—By rail	45,971,035—96,788,635	
1872—By river	57,708,800	
1872—By rail	57,356,340—115,065,146	

The above shows the great bulk of the product of the coal mines in the Monongahela valley, and on the lines of our several railways. The receipts "by river" are made up mainly of the coal mined for exportation to the Western and Southern markets; while those "by rail" embrace a large portion of what is consumed here. We have no data for ascertaining the exact amount used for home consumption, as no separate record is kept. It will be observed that the shipments by rail have increased in a much greater ratio than those by river. In 1870, the water shipments exceeded those by rail over 20,000,000 bushels; while in 1872 the difference in favor of the rivers is only a fraction over 350,000 bushels.

The coke trade, which is comparatively a new branch of industry here, still makes rapid strides, and will increase in proportion to the demand for smelting purposes. In 1870 the receipts of coke were 11,594,000 bushels; in 1871 the receipts were 22,357,400 bushels; and in 1872, 43,927,965 bushels—an increase of 21,570,565 bushels.

OIL.

The business in oil in 1872, compares favorably with that of the preceding years. The receipts of crude were 1,186,501 barrels, against 1,146,493 in 1871—an increase of 40,008 barrels. The exports of refined oil foot up 743,610 barrels in 1872, against 750,945 in 1871—an decrease of 9,667 barrels. This was the highest shipments in any one year since 1865, except in 1870, when 811,158 barrels were exported.

The prices current of crude and refined, for four years, are also given, and will be found valuable to the trade.

THE IRON TRADE.

The following tables show the monthly receipts of pig iron, iron ore and blooms, by the various railroads, for four years ending December, 1872:

Rail Receipts of Pig Iron, Iron Ore and Blooms.

PITTSBURGH, FORT WAYNE AND CHICAGO RAILROAD.

	1869. Tons.	1870. Tons.	1871. Tons.	1872. Tons.
January	9,230	8,720	11,730	20,680
February	11,040	12,940	10,400	15,670
March	10,610	9,600	21,130	15,500
April	8,080	6,210	14,600	15,590
May	5,710	4,260	15,610	19,330
June	4,320	4,140	10,280	9,910
July	3,830	10,330	12,070	12,670
August	5,420	11,020	14,950	12,790
September	6,140	10,640	17,740	9,380
October	7,110	9,640	14,170	8,110
November	7,390	14,830	14,150	9,110
December	7,630	12,890	13,390	7,660
Total tons	86,510	112,400	174,490	151,500

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

	1869. Tons.	1870. Tons.	1871. Tons.	1872. Tons.
January	6,090	5,730	6,170	10,200
February	5,410	6,670	7,470	10,140
March	9,150	8,830	5,520	11,360
April	6,500	6,070	3,830	13,150
May	4,480	4,060	3,590	7,240
June	3,980	3,910	3,840	5,270
July	2,680	4,320	3,150	6,900
August	4,670	6,610	4,710	7,370
September	5,250	6,830	4,190	7,050
October	5,830	4,910	4,080	4,830
November	8,320	5,120	5,180	2,690
December	6,960	4,170	4,630	3,135
Total tons	68,180	68,620	56,340	88,335

CLEVELAND AND PITTSBURGH RAILROAD.

	1869. Tons.	1870. Tons.	1871. Tons.	1872. Tons.
January	6,760	4,960	6,750	10,690
February	4,200	3,570	7,430	5,560
March	3,190	3,330	5,110	7,990
April	1,430	3,970	2,530	8,320
May	580	4,560	4,670	5,910
June	2,950	5,670	5,670	6,950
July	2,960	6,740	4,230	13,330
August	3,970	6,370	4,920	12,180
September	3,260	5,660	4,780	8,340
October	4,660	4,840	5,400	9,480
November	2,520	5,050	5,410	9,110
December	4,480	5,420	5,790	11,250
Total tons	47,750	60,810	61,600	108,190

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

	1869. Tons.	1870. Tons.	1871. Tons.	1872. Tons.
January	1,140	1,970	770	
February	780	220	550	
March		1,790	960	
April		890	470	
May		140	1,290	
June		520	2,380	
July		1,210	2,700	
August		320	5,320	
September		370	4,140	
October		170	4,740	
November	120	530	4,100	
December		530	3,020	
Total tons	1,900	6,180	27,440	

PITTSBURGH AND CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD.

	1869. Tons.	1870. Tons.	1871. Tons.	1872. Tons.
January	300	350	560	1,930
February		410	730	2,950
March		410	900	1,830
April		360	1,330	1,830
May	200	60	790	1,980
June		140	660	1,700
July	60	130	1,000	2,140
August	180	290	640	1,230
September	150	270	850	2,010
October	250	330	860	1,810
November		570	1,430	1,050
December	250	780	1,190	1,540
Total tons	1,580	4,060	11,540	21,010

ALLEGHENY VALLEY RAILROAD.

	1869. Tons.	1870. Tons.	1871. Tons.	1872. Tons.
January	500	630	1,280	1,350
February		590	1,240	540
March		470	1,130	1,090
April		130	730	940
May	600	620	1,320	1,050
June	1,140	460	920	700
July	300	1,370	1,200	1,000
August	740	1,030	1,640	2,630
September	1,100	1,230	2,190	3,350
October	750	840	680	2,210
November	760	760	1,080	3,870
December	780	810	1,410	3,290
Total tons	7,670	8,180	14,710	19,900

PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI AND ST. LOUIS RAILROAD.

	1869. Tons.	1870. Tons.	1871. Tons.	1874. Tons.
January				1,170
February			250	990
March			190	170
April			140	340

FIFTY HOURS OF STORM.

Drifts of Death in Minnesota.

Horrors of the Hurricane—Over Two Hundred Lives Lost—Drifts Higher Than Houses—Babes Frozen at Their Mothers' Breasts —A Land Strewn with Corpses.

[Winona, Minn., (Jan. 18) Correspondence N. Y. H'rald.]

While your Eastern world on the verge of the Gulf Stream has been lifting the hands or despair and voice of protest over a snowfall which made locomotion on foot unpleasant and by horse cars impossible for a day or two, and while the whole country has been thrilling with horror at the incremation of a few hapless workwomen in a tinder box, up here, on the shadeless and shelterless prairies, "there hath been wrought a deed of dreadful note." Human suffering which parallels that endured by the fated Franklin has been of hourly occurrence, and lives have been taken as freely as in battle, but with attendant circumstances infinitely more tragic than wait on the parting of the soul which is rent from the mangled flesh by shot or steel. I was in Minnesota after the awful massacres of ten years ago, when the red wave of Indian invasion swept over the smiling land as with a scythe.

WASTE OF LIVES SOAKED WITH BLOOD;

but the scalping knife and bullet of the Sioux did not do havoc such as the snows have wrought this year, nor were the tortures of the red fiends productive of more agony than I have witnessed within the past ten days. What has been suffered and how many have been slain has not yet been ascertained, for the settlements are far apart and communication is difficult; but by every mail come particulars that chill the blood and from which we now fairly estimate the extent of the calamity; and, inasmuch as the history of this memorable Polar wave must, in a large measure, be derived from local sources and back-woods journals that never reach the Eastern reader or editor, it may not be labor wasted on the part of the *Herald's* correspondent to prepare a succinct and intelligible account of the sad affair, to which are added such personal passages as may be most worthy of preservation.

Up to that fatal Tuesday, at whose mention many a heart shall ache in Minnesota for years to come, there had been winter weather of the usual sort, clear, cold, with occasional storms of snow, some of which had seriously blockaded the railroads and had inflicted considerable suffering from scarcity of fuel. The epizooty had for some time laid an embargo on travel. Our great Northwestern country must not be considered to be like Canada, a land of hills and valleys, thickly clad with pine forests. A great table-land, of considerable altitude, lying open to the winds, that sweep down from the Northern Sea at intervals,

ICY AS THE BREATH OF DEATH,

with an occasional tree, a semi-occasional clump of trees, or a still rarer belt of forest along a water course, and an atmosphere dry and rare—such is Minnesota. It is largely settled by immigrants from Scandinavia, poor and thrifty folk, whose wooden houses stand singly or in little hamlets, marking the prairie at every few miles. The country is dotted over in summer smiles as the garden of the Lord; but in winter it presents a bleak face of snow to a cloudless, blue sky.

Tuesday, the 10th, was a lovely and mild day. The sun was bright and the air balmy. Every pulse of the country was astir under the genial influence and the wild swans that clanged overhead once or twice from their nests must have seen the prairie road alive with teams. The farmers were all out at their harvest settlement. They were getting short of fuel; there was but a handful of flour at the bottom of the barrel, not a scrap of meat was left. But the sleighs had been all put in thorough repair, horses were well again, so every farmer hitched his team for the town. In the little cottage of wood were women and children; the school-houses were full of little ones. Such was the country, thus its dwellers, when the blow fell. Nature would seem to have arrogated to herself all the savage attributes which had marked her first children there. The careful and patient watch for any opportunity and their sudden and relentless onslaught.

THE STORM WAS TURNED SIOUX.

At Winnebago City there were sixty teams assembled; scores were at New Ulm. All along from Albert Lea and Blue Earth, by Windom, Mankato, clear up to Breckinridge, Belle Prairie and Duluth, the people were scattered, delivered into the hands of the storm.

Between two-e and three o'clock on Tuesday the sky turned livid, the sun became merely a dull, brazen ring, the south wind chopped around rapidly and became cold, and in a very few minutes was laden with fine, frozen snow-drift that stung like a shower of needles. So utterly unprepared were the people for the change in the weather, and so suddenly did it come upon them, that the citizens of Winnebago City describes it as "if a man clapped his hands—so, and the snow came in our faces." Knowing what this hurricane bodied, men leaped into their sleighs, lay with voice and lash urged their cowering horses out into the storm. Then the work of death began. For more than fifty hours, late on Thursday, the freezing wind and falling snow continued. It was not a steady fall of snow, but

A HOWLING HURRICANE,

the wind sometimes attaining a speed of twenty-eight, thirty or thirty-two miles. The snow came in dry particles, with a wild screech and a singing whiz. The thermometer fell steadily, till at Champlain it registered fifty-four degrees below zero. At other places the mercury, or spirit rendered from it, fell to forty-two degrees below. Some of the farmers who set out soon found that if they valued life they must turn back. They were enveloped in a dry, stinging, blinded fleece. The wind came so fiercely that they were fain to stop and turn round till a momentary lull came. The road—why, the level prairie was all road now, without track of wheel or runner to indicate the path of safety. Wherever there was a slight knoll or tree the driving snow sleet curled round it and broke over it like vexed billows on a wreck, and far to leeward grew up drifts of eccentric form. Then the snorting horses that toiled along, pressing with their heaving flanks closer to each other for warmth and dumb protection and sympathy, refused to go forward; the driver felt himself becoming listless, his cold limbs were growing warm, and warned of the

SWIFT COMING OF DEATH.

he turned and retraced his steps. Happy they who did so betimes! There were many who held on stubbornly till it was too late. There were many more who, goaded on by a dreadful fear of the little babes away all night ones, left alone in their frail citadels, forced on through the drifts that grew deeper at every step and cold that became more intense every moment. And there were others who grew weary of the contest, and, lying down in their robes, were lulled by the elemental raze into a slumber which knew no awakening. Sometimes the horses gave out, and the unfortunate driver, benumbed and chilled, his movements impeded by his heavy clothing, had to abandon his team and take to the drifts. The moans and shrieks of the lost gave them fresh themselves thus deserted by their masters are said by some few who survived such scenes to have been agonizing to hear. And at their homes things were no better. There was perhaps a scanty supply of fuel in the corner and but a day's food in the larder. Night trod closely on the heels of noon. Perhaps the mother was alone with her cackling child, her husband ten miles away in one direction, her children two miles away in another. These hapless parents suffered countless deaths. The wooden buildings creaked and

ROCKED IN THE SWING OF THE STORM

like ships at sea. The timbers cracked with the frost like rifles. Beads of frost stood on every piece of woodwork, the small panes of glass were as thick with ice that there was no chance that the lamp set in the casement could send its feeble light to the belated stragglers without. It was impossible to open the doors, so high had the drifts become. The fire grew low though it was replenished with the scanty furniture. Day succeeded to darkness, but the day was as the night. Only the chimney of the house appeared above the drifts. The poor woman knew that her children lay dead, hand in hand, on the prairie, and that her husband's corpse was somewhere entombed in a giant drift. The little babes at the breast were laid against her empty breast; the soul had sped from between them in a little cloud of frozen vapor. She lay down and died, and the relenting winds wafted through the spar-tures of the room a decent drift of diamond snow for her winding sheet. These pictures, terrible as they may appear to the readers of the *Herald*, are but the faintest reflex and limning of the snow as it tinkles against the glass, a musical and cheerful sound, are less than the reality. The advance of death was like that of a torturer, who comes with all his horrid engines to the victim bound at the stake. Only they were to be envied who met a swifter fate in the raging storm without, and were soonest buried from their children dying before their eyes of hunger as well as of cold.

ON THE RAILROADS

there was not absolute suffering. Of course trains were shelved in for days at a time; but towns had telegraph wires, and passengers were safe from sleet so long as they had fuel. But this was only a while.

When Friday, the 10th, came, the sun rose upon a land of snow and silence. Drifts many feet deep lay between the settlements where there. Here and there the chimney of a house stood in like a tombstone in a vast cemetery. The land lay like a corpse under a winding sheet, the counterpane of which revealed wrinkles over the dead limbs or sel features. Now came the giant labor of clearing away the giant drifts and setting free the imprisoned trains, and the saddest task of tractice through the prairies the steps of the dead. Everywhere they were found lying still and statue-like in

THE ICY EMBRACE OF DEATH.

Sometimes the searchers would find man and horses together, the former lying dead wrapped in his robes with his whip in his hand in the sleigh, one horse down the other standing in the spot where he had fallen, his partner's fall till he shared his partner's fate. Sometimes the sleigh was found overturned with the traces cut. Then to right or left would be discovered the driver, who had wandered round in a despairing circle to die. occasionally the beasts showed in their dilated nostrils, widely spread lips and staring eyes the signs of mortal terror. And many, too, were sometimes Lococons of ice statues of writhing despair. But, as a rule, death came quietly, as it generally is in these cases, first robbing the victim of the consciousness of approaching death, which begets an agonized struggle for life, and stilling him with a stupor said to be as delicious as it is deadly.

THE DEATH FOLD.

cannot yet be made up with any reasonable degree of certainty. We are only now getting detailed reports from the nearer settlements, and it will be fully a week ere these are so complete as to be trustworthy. Many of the missing will not be found till spring; but it is safe to set down all the missing as dead. After sale to set down all the missing as dead. After carefully collating the various reports received thus far, and making all allowance for the remaining parts of the State I am led to conclude that the loss of life in Minnesota will range from two hundred and fifty to three hundred. It is just possible, though not probable, that the higher figure may be reached. Almost all these are men, and the very large proportion of them fathers of families in strained circumstances. The surviving widows and children will thus be left without means of support of any description. The charitable of the East will here find an object for their sympathies.

FROZEN TO DEATH.

FOUR DAYS IN A SNOW DRIFT.

Experience of Five Men in the Fearful Storm—Three Frozen to Death and One Crippled for Life—A Wonderful Case of Human Endurance.

[From the St. Paul Press, 18th.]

Yesterday there arrived in this city by the Wilmar train, one of the poor sufferers by the late terrific storm. This man, whose name is Charles O'Neil, was taken to the Sister's Hospital, to undergo the operation of amputation of both feet and an arm.

HIS STORY,

as gathered by a Press reporter, is substantially as follows: On the morning of the terrible Tuesday, a party of five men, Charles O'Neil and his brothers John and Stephen, and Mike and Thomas Holden, started from Beaver Falls, Renville county, with five loads of grain for Wilmar market. Wilmar is distant from Beaver Falls about thirty-five miles of open prairie, twenty of which are without a settler. Quite early in the afternoon it began to snow, but the wind was light and the party pressed on, anxious to reach Wilmar with no delay.

When within about eight miles of Wilmar the wind began to increase, and blew directly in their faces. They viewed the situation with considerable dismay, and about half concluded to turn about and retreat to a house about eight miles in the rear, and fortunate would it have been had they done so. But about a mile ahead was the house of a Mr. Meagher, and the party finally determined to press on to this refuge.

THE STORM

continued to increase in violence, however, and the wind hurled the falling and drifting particles of ice against and about them until they were obliged to turn their faces from the storm and trust to the instincts of their animals to keep on in the right direction. Drifts began to meet them, and their horses could scarcely flounder through them. It was now too late, and equally too hazardous to take the back track, and they pushed on into the bitter hurricane in the hope of reaching Meaghers. But now their

HORSES GAVE OUT,

and became stalled in a succession of deep drifts. It was found impossible to extricate the sleighs, and the only alternative was to build the best protection their circumstances would afford. Their horses were unhitched always, turned from the wind, and another was leaned against it to serve as a cover and brace. About this insecure and flimsy shelter sacks of grain were piled, and inside the five men were crowded, after having first cut loose the horses. This was about

FOUR O'CLOCK TUESDAY,

and of course they had no food, and but a meagre supply of blankets. The snow, driven across the prairies like stunning darts or lightning, was forced through every crevice, and packed aga nst and above the little shelter, and in upon the men, and with such force was it driven that it was packed solid as sheets of ice. Tuesday night passed, and Wednesday Mike Holden announced his intention of seeking Meagher's house. He tried to persuade the party to go with him, but they considered themselves safest where they were, and declined. Mike started out and succeeded in reaching the house, having both hands frozen in the way. The storm continued so severe that no attempt could be made to rescue the others at that time. They in the meantime were suffering all the pangs of cold and hunger, and on the fifth morning that several of them became delirious, for when found they were lying out of and near the shelter.

THE DISCOVERY.

About ten o'clock Friday morning a man, passing along the road with an ox-team, heard shouts as of one in distress, and upon making search discovered the little barricade covered with packed snow, and was horrified, upon disturbing several apparent knolls in the vicinity, to find that they contained the dead bodies of the unfortunate men. He found Stephen Holden, Stephen O'Neil and John O'Neil, the first two quite dead, and the latter with life almost extinct. Upon searching under the cover he discovered two feet protruding from the snow, and breaking away the crust he found Charles O'Neil, alive, but in a

TERRIBLE CONDITION.

The bodies were at once lugged to his sled and conveyed to Meagher's and thence to Wilmar, John O'Neil dying before he reached that place. The details of the sufferings of Charles O'Neil are horrifying, and almost incredible. It seems that he had lain down immediately upon entering the cover, and had while in this position, been fastened in by the terrible weight of the snow which drifted upon him or rather upon the upper portion of his body. It was so heavy, he said, as to cause him unspeakable torture. He was for a time unable to rise, and that the snow was covering his head, he feared suffocation, and to keep that member free he constantly raised himself and kept it in motion. Fortunately he could not prevent the drift from forming over it, he formed an air chamber which prevented suffocation. In his endeavor to free his head the poor fellow cut

THROUGH THE HAIR

almost entirely from the scalp. Here he lay with his feet exposed to the air and frozen stiff and with the cruel frost slowly creeping up his limbs, and unable to move scarce a muscle of his body from Tuesday night until Friday noon. Can a more horrible situation be imagined? The poor fellow's right arm is frozen to the elbow, the right leg to the knee and the left leg above the ankle. Those members are thus far completely dead, and he has been lying at Wilmar until yesterday, when the first train succeeded in getting through.

Five of the horses were frozen to death, and the others were found five miles away all night

[From the Minneapolis Tribune, Jan 9.]

Gov. Austin has received news from several of the frontier counties, from which it appears that the effects of the late storm are not as severe as was at first feared. In Nobles county but one death occurred, none among the National Colony. In Martin county no deaths are reported, and none yet from Jackson county. Only one is reported from Windom, in Cottonwood county, and four in Benson. A number of first reports are contradicted, while others are not confirmed. O'Neil, one of the party of four so badly frozen at Willmar, has been brought to St. Paul, and has been sent to the Sisters Hospital, where both feet and one arm were amputated. Charles O'Neil, with John and Stephen O'Neil, and Thomas Holden were out from Tuesday until Friday. The others were frozen to-death. Charles was covered by the snow except his feet, and in his attempts to move his head from time to time to prevent suffocation, he actually tore nearly all of the hair from his head.

A Mrs. Fox, with husband, child, and a cousin named Chase, of Lyon county, were on their way from Mead's to Marshall, a distance of eighteen miles, on the fatal Tuesday. They had arrived within two miles of Marshall when the storm overtook them, and the team refused to go further. Here they remained until Saturday morning. Mr. Chase died on Wednesday; the child (from starvation) on Friday. Mrs. Fox, between last Friday and Sunday kept her husband aroused with vigorous prods with pins whenever he showed an inclination to sleep. He was, when found, unable to move, but still alive, and his physician is confident that he will escape death.

Triple Murder in Savoy.

A terrible crime has just been committed in Savoy. The journals give the following partial details of the affair: "The cure of La Rochette was informed after vespers that a woman had been assassinated, and was directly he went immediately to the house. There he found the mistress in one of the rooms dead, and the sound of the snow as it trickles against the glass, a musical and cheerful sound, are less than the reality. The advance of death was like that of a torturer, who comes with all his horrid engines to the victim bound at the stake. Only they were to be envied who met a swifter fate in the raging storm without, and were soonest buried from their children dying before their eyes of hunger as well as of cold.

ON THE RAILROADS

there was not absolute suffering. Of course trains were shelved in for days at a time; but towns had telegraph wires, and passengers were safe from sleet so long as they had fuel. But this was only a while.

When Friday, the 10th, came, the sun rose upon a land of snow and silence. Drifts many feet deep lay between the settlements where there. Here and there the chimney of a house stood in like a tombstone in a vast cemetery. The land lay like a corpse under a winding sheet, the counterpane of which revealed wrinkles over the dead limbs or sel features. Now came the giant labor of clearing away the giant drifts and setting free the imprisoned trains, and the saddest task of tractice through the prairies the steps of the dead. Everywhere they were found lying still and statue-like in

THE ICY EMBRACE OF DEATH.

Sometimes the searchers would find man and horses together, the former lying dead wrapped in his robes with his whip in his hand in the sleigh, one horse down the other standing in the spot where he had fallen, his partner's fall till he shared his partner's fate. Sometimes the sleigh was found overturned with the traces cut. Then to right or left would be discovered the driver, who had wandered round in a despairing circle to die. occasionally the beasts showed in their dilated nostrils, widely spread lips and staring eyes the signs of mortal terror. And many, too, were sometimes Lococons of ice statues of writhing despair. But, as a rule, death came quietly, as it generally is in these cases, first robbing the victim of the consciousness of approaching death, which begets an agonized struggle for life, and stilling him with a stupor said to be as delicious as it is deadly.

THE DEATH FOLD.

cannot yet be made up with any reasonable degree of certainty. We are only now getting detailed reports from the nearer settlements, and it will be fully a week ere these are so complete as to be trustworthy. Many of the missing will not be found till spring; but it is safe to set down all the missing as dead. After sale to set down all the missing as dead. After carefully collating the various reports received thus far, and making all allowance for the remaining parts of the State I am led to conclude that the loss of life in Minnesota will range from two hundred and fifty to three

PARIS has a novelty in the way of a new article of diet, in the form of Alpine rats, which are presented in all the varied styles of French cookery at the principal restaurants. They are esteemed a luxury altogether too rare for the common palate. They are declared by those who have tried them to be far better than the city rats, and even superior to cat's meat, being of a more tender and juicy nature. As we follow Paris in every fashion, good and bad, it is reasonable to suppose that before many weeks we shall find "rats in all styles" on the cartes of our fashionable hotels and saloons.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 29, 1873.

It is scarcely necessary to make any attempt to sketch the condition of the local money market, as there is little change in its condition. Funds are still taken up as rapidly as they accumulate in the banks, at the usual rates. Confidence is increasing, and cautious capitalists are letting out their purse strings. The feeling that the situation is a healthful one, has as much to do with the easier rates for money as any increase in money itself.

Thousand tongued rumor has been busy with the financial character of some of our leading manufacturing and mercantile houses, who were compelled to pay rates unusual for this market during the recent stringency, although such rates are not uncommon, and create no comment in Wall street or Chicago, while here where a firm finds it necessary to pay over ten per cent. per annum, some wiseacres shake their heads ominously, shrug their shoulders, look owlish wisdom, prudently say nothing, and "while not sneering, teach the rest to sneer." A soldier's reputation for bravery, a merchant's character for promptness and probity, and a woman's virtue are equally sensitive to any breath of suspicion, however lightly blown, and a false step by either of them is apt to be followed by the second, or the one mistake of an hour is remembered for years; to each their standing is equally sacred and it behooves prudent men not to lend help to gossip'stales by repeating the idle rumors of the hour.

Careful inquiry among the best posted banks and leading manufacturers leads us to believe that there is no foundation in fact in the rumors which have found their way into the financial columns, of some of our neighbors.

Confidence in the stability of business, and an increasing hopefulness for the future are everywhere manifest.

—Messrs. McVay & Co. announce that the Birmingham Market House and South Pittsburgh School House bonds, advertised for a few days past, have all been absorbed by investors. They also announce that the $50,000 loan authorized by section 22 of the Penn avenue act have nearly all been sold. These bonds are issued directly by thecity; are made of denominations of $1,000 and upward to suit the purchaser—all of them being registered; they have two years to run from January 1, 1873, and bear seven per cent. interest, free from all taxes. Persons wishing a short investment can find no better security.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Even.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	119	119	119
U. S. Bonds of 1862	115½	115½	115½
U. S. Bonds of 1864	115½	115½	115½
U. S. Bonds of 1865	116½	116½	116½
U. S. Bonds of 1865, new	115½	115½	115½
U. S. Bonds of 1867	116½	116½	116½
U. S. Bonds of 1868	116½	116½	116½
6-20s	113½	114	114
New 7s	114½	114½	114½
Gold	112½	114	113½
Currency 6s	115½	115½	115½

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	113½
United States 6s of 1881	119
United States 5-20s of 1862	115½
United States 5-20s of 1864	115½
United States 5-20s of 1865	116
United States 5-20s of 1865, new	115½
United States 5-20s of 1867	116½
United States 5-20s of 1868	116½
United States 10-40s	114
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	116
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	116½
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	116½
Currency Funding	113½

The transportation question continues to attract attention in all parts of the country. The crops last year were good, and yet they cannot be marketed, owing to the extreme rates of transportation. The consequence is that the farmers are getting plenty. The farmers, unable to realize a living profit on their grain and hogs, cannot pay the storekeepers, to whom they are in debt, and the latter cannot meet their obligations, and so on to the merchants. This makes hard times all round. The railroads are held to be largely responsible for this deplorable state of things. The people justly complain of the want of regularity and reasonableness in the rates of railroads, and demand legislative interference; and the railroads, to protect themselves against hostile legislation, have formed and are forming combinations, which have already been powerful enough to control the legislation of some States; and they thus seem to be in a position to dictate terms to the communities which they serve. Greater economy in their construction; more honesty, as well as economy in management; a fixed maximum, and a fixed minimum rate of tariff, and the fixing of these upon the basis of a reasonable profit on the capital always to be commensurate with such actual expense; no watering of stock or capitalizing of earnings, and no combination of new lines out of the earnings of the old ones.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by George I. Whitney, Esq., broker and dealer in stocks, bonds and gold, corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street:

	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30
January 29, 1873.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Gold	112½	112½	———	112½	112½	112½
Canton	39	39	———	39	39	39
Western Union Tel	84½	84½	84½	84	84½	84½
Quicksilver	———	———	———	———	———	———
Pacific Mail	72¾	72¾	72¾	72½	72½	72¾
Adams Express	57	57	———	57	———	———
Wells, Fargo & Co	85	85½	———	———	———	———
American Express	69	69	———	———	———	———
United States Express	———	———	———	———	———	———
New York Central	95¾	96	96¼	96	96	96
Erie	66¾	66¾	———	66½	66½	66½
Michigan Central	———	———	———	———	———	———
Cleveland & Pittsburg	95¾	95¾	———	95¾	———	95¾
Illinois Central	131½	131½	131½	131½	131½	131½
Cleveland and Pittsb'g	91	91	———	91	———	———
Chicago and Northwest.	81	81	———	81	———	———
Do preferred	91½	91½	———	91½	91½	91½
Rock Island	110½	111	111	111	111	111
St. Paul	38½	38½	38½	38½	38½	38½
Do preferred	78½	78½	78½	78½	78½	78½
Wabash	74	74	74	74	74	74
Do. Preferred	———	———	———	———	———	———
Fort Wayne	99½	99½	———	99½	———	99½
Ohio and Mississippi	48½	49½	———	48½	48½	48½
Union Pacific	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½
Chicago and Alton	———	114	———	114	114	114
Do. preferred	———	———	———	———	———	———
Boston, Hartford & Erie	9½	9¼	9¼	9	9½	9½
Marion	———	———	———	———	———	———
New Jersey Central	———	———	———	———	———	———
C. C. & I. C	90	90	———	90	———	90
Hannibal & St. Jo	45½	45½	45½	45½	45½	45½
Atlantic Mail	———	———	———	———	———	———
Iron Mountain	92½	92½	———	92½	———	92½

—Messrs. Robinson Bros., bankers, No. 7 Fourth avenue, furnish the following telegraphic report of quotation of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

Penn'a Central	58¾	Phila. and Erie	27¾
Reading	97¾	Lehigh Navigation	37¾
United Co's of N.J.	192	Pittsburgh 58	42
Oil Creek & A. V. R.	25	A. V. R. R 7-30s	97
Lehigh Valley R. R.	60	Central Transport	44

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, January 30, 1873.

REMARKS.—The extreme cold weather seems to have put a stop to transactions in oil. The result is we have a very dull market, and without any sales to note here we report nominally, Parker's 10, equal to about 65@65½ here. At most points in the oil regions prices declined 10@15c per barrel.

REFINED.

The market since our last has undergone but little change. Buyers are disposed to be shy. In fact, there was neither life nor activity perceptible yesterday. We quote nominally, car load lots at the works, F. O. B., 17½c; 500 or 1,000 barrel lots could be obtained lower.

OIL BARRELS.

The market was firm. We quote city, $1 95@2 10; country, $1 85@1 90.

[By Western Union Line.]

TITUSVILLE, January 29.—The *Herald* says: The market is quiet at all points. Upper room opened at $2 25, fell off to $2 20@2 15, and closed weak. On lower road prices were nominally $2 20@$2 25. Oil City nominally $2 40 and very sluggish. At Parker's the market was inactive at $2 10@2 15. Tidioute closes weak and nominally $2 12½@2 15. The home refined market was nominally 13a13½c in bond, 16½a17c in bbls. Sales:

1,500 bbls upper road.....$2 25
500 bbls lower Tidioute line.....2 24
500 bbls upper road.....2 15
6 cars Parker's.....2 10

PETROLEUM CENTER, January 29.—Market still at $2 25.

TITUSVILLE, January 29.—Market quiet; spot $2 20@2 25. No sales.

OIL CITY, January 29.—Market dull at $2 40, lower road $2 35@2 40.

PHILADELPHIA, January 29.—Market quiet; S. W. 21c; crude 8½c; cases 27c.

NEW YORK, January 29, closing 28th.—Market lower and prices nominal. Crude in bulk offering at 9½c, without sales. Refined 26c; sales 4,000 bbls 27c; and February 27c; sales 2,000 bbls and March for March at 28c. Cases held at 37½c. Philadelphia delivery dull; sales 2,000 bbls spot at 27c.

(By Philadelphia and Atlantic Telegraph Line.)

PHILADELPHIA, January 29.—Refined 21c; crude 8½c in bulk; in bbls 14½c. Market heavy.

PITTSBURGH, January 29.—Market firmly at $2 15.

NEW YORK, January 29.—Refined 26½c; crude 9½c.

TARRYTOWN, January 29.—Market very dull at Foxcroft, January 29.—Market very quiet, with few sellers at $2 12.

TITUSVILLE, January 29.—Market here to day about $2 20.

OIL CITY, January 28.—Market quiet and not much doing at $2 40@2 45.

The English Iron Trade.

The London *Times*, January 9th, reports: The Wolverhampton quarterly meeting of the iron trade was held yesterday afternoon. There was an influential attendance, alike of sellers and buyers, with a disposition to purchase, if only the current rate could be obtained at a price which consumers thought reasonable. The quotations were, however, very wide of each other whenever makers were ready to look. There were firms of first-class standing who were open to contract for bars a£12, and the next week good trade at that figure, for they are determined that if there should be again a sudden falling off in the demand, consequent upon inordinate advances, they will not be found suddenly without specifications. No firm will, however, accept orders for an unlimited quantity, while there are makers who are asking £13. Sheets and plates are even firmer than bars. Singles were reported to have been sold to-day in some but large quantities at £14. There will go to the London market. The same figure is being asked for plates. In these cases the makers were influenced in part by the state of their order books at considerably lower prices, in others by the demands which are being made for pig making irons, and by the colliery proprietors and coke merchants. One leading pig making firm were yesterday asking 67 for their pigs, their inquiry being for filled at £6; but it is not understood that they are able to supply iron at £7 within a moderate time. The coal of this district was difficult to get of a good quality under advances that are named without hesitation. Even so much as 28 and even more, colliery proprietors declared, would be established to-day in first-class qualities. The justification for these demands was the havoc which the long prevailing wet weather has made in filling the workings with water. Firms were mentioned who will have greatly to reduce their blast furnace operations unless there is a speedy change in the weather. Their collieries are nearly altogether drowned out. The market closed with uneasy apprehensions as to the effect which the state of things will have upon the quotations of the iron firms in Birmingham to-day. The majority of the ironmakers decline to keep quotations where they are, but fear that the scarcity of fuel will necessitate advances, which all apprehend will damage the trade by checking purchases.

Philadelphia Live Stock Market.

PHILADELPHIA, January 27.—Beeves in fair demand: sales 2,400 head extra Pennsylvania and Western steers at $7 75a8 00; fair to good $6 50a7 00; common $4 50a6 00. Sheep in fair demand; sales 10,000 head at $4 50a8 00. Hogs firmly held; sales 5,000 head at $6 50.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 29, 1873.

REMARKS.—The extreme cold weather (18 degrees below zero) has, so to speak, frozen up the market, i. e., buyers are afraid to venture upon the streets lest they get frozen. In fact, the market to-day was dull and lifeless, the streets being almost deserted by pedestrians, none venturing out unless absolutely compelled to do so. There is every prospect of another long suspension of river navigation by ice, which will again endanger property afloat. We have no change to note in prices. Flour and wheat are still in short supply, and prices very firm. As noted yesterday, western brands of flour have advanced 25c ₱ bbl.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce received during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bushels	7,495	9,569	16,925
Apples, barrels	1,382	863	2,665
Cheese, boxes	627	189	816
Corn, sacks	4,720	3,389	8,109
Wheat, sacks	3,115	6,311	9,425
Barley, sacks	6,643	7,579	14,222
Rye, sacks	437	1,285	1,722
Oats, sacks	4,984	12,742	17,726
Butter, packages	427	347	774
Bacon, pieces	9,549	7,655	19,204
Bacon, tierces	370	382	752

The following are the wholesale rates, unless special mention is made to the contrary:

ASHES—The market is quiet and a shade weaker. We quote: Pearls 11@11¼c; pots 10c; seconds ¼@¼c; refined 6@6½c; nitrate soda 4¾@5c; arsenic 3½@4c.

APPLES—Choice cooking $2 50@2 75 ₱ bbl. Receipts 60 bbls.

APPLE BUTTER—We are reported sales at 50@60c per gallon.

ALES—Sales X, $9 ₱ bbl; XX, $10; India Ale, $11 ₱ barrel; XXX, $12 ₱ bbl.

BUTTER—We have no change to note in prices. The supply of choice roll is scarcely up with the demand, while common and medium are abundant. We quote choice roll at 26@28c ₱ lb; prime 18@20c; common 12@16c. Receipts 63 packages.

BEANS—Choice white navy $2 50@3 75 as to quality; common $2 00.

CHEESE—Sales in a jobbing way at 35@40c ₱ lb.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—1 lb cans, ₱ doz, $2 00; ½ lb cans $1 25; ¼ lb cans $1 75.

BROOM CORN—Prices nominally 4¾@6c, as to quality and condition.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—The only change we have to note is in the article of breakfast bacon, which advanced ½c per lb. We are reported a fair local trade demand at the following figures: Sugar cured hams 13@14c; sugar cured shoulders 7½c; plain shoulders 6c; fat backs 8c; clear rib sides 8¾c; clear sides 9c; breakfast bacon 11c@11¾c; dried beef 18c; mess pork $14 50; prime mess pork $13 75. Ham sausage 10c; leaf lard, in tierces, 8½c; half bbls 9¼c; pails 10c; pigs feet, in half bbls, $4 40; in kegs $2 20. Receipts—Bacon, about 1,200 pieces 6c.

CHEESE—The market is firm at the following quotations: New York Goshen 17c ₱ lb; Ohio Goshen 15½@16c; Dairy Reserve, 14½@15c; factory, round lots, 14c; jobbing lots 14½@15c.

CANDLES—The market is dull, with sales in a small way at $5 00@7 00 ₱ bbl as to quality.

CRANBERRIES — Sackett's and Carey's $14@15 ₱ bbl; cultivated and common can be had at $9@13 ₱ bbl.

COAL OIL—Standard brands, by the car load 18c, with the usual advance from stores.

CONSIGNERS' LYE—Sales at $6 00 ₱ case.

COUNTRY MARKET—Hams 10@12c; clear sides 9@10c; lard 8½c. Land 7@7¾c per lb.

CLOVER—Contract plenty at $4 25@4 50 per bbl. Beeson's hydraulic cement $3 00@3 25; Louisville 2d 50@2 75; Rosedale $1 00@4 25.

DRIED FRUITS—Sales peaches, halves, 7½@9½c; apples, strictly choice, 5½@7c; fair, 4@4½c.

DRESSED HOGS—Sales at 5½@6c.

EGGS—Stocks light and prices firm at 33@40c ₱ dozen for fresh; packed 25@30c.

FLOUR—Receipts 1,382 bbls. There is a good local demand, and notwithstanding the fact that receipts of Western flour are liberal, dealers find it difficult to meet orders. Prices, as before noted, have advanced 25c per bbl, and we now quote as follows—Stores: $5 25 for spring wheat Minnesota and $9 50 for red winter. Mills: $9 to $10 00. Oatmeal $6. Corn meal scarce at $3 25.

GROCERIES—We have no change to note in this line, and quote as follows:

SUGARS—Knights yellow 8½c; Knight's extra C 10¾c; H & E, yellow, 10c; H & E C, 11¼c; H & E, extra C, 11¾c; Phœnix, yellow C, 10c; Phœnix extra C, 11c; Crystal A 12¼c; Crystal B 12¾c; Calvert's A 12¾c; crushed 13¾c; powdered 13¾c; granulated 13¾c; cut loaf 14c; Demarara 13¾; New Orleans 10a11c.

Coffee—Fair 20@20½c; good 21½@22¾c; prime 22@23½c; choice 24@25c; fancy 27@28c; roasted, loose 36¾c; in packages, 37c.

Syrups—Common 28@34c; Crystal 55c; H & E XXX 60c; maple flavored 60a65c; Union 70c; Phœnix 70c; white drips $1 20.

Molasses—Cuba 43@49c; Rangoon 73@74c.

New Orleans Molasses—Choice 80c; strictly prime 75c; prime 70c; fair 65c.

Syrups—Common 28@34c; Crystal 55c; H & E XXX 60c; maple flavored 60a65c; Union 70c; Phœnix 70c; white drips $1 20.

Rice—Carolina 8½@9c; Rangoon 7½@7¾c.

New Orleans Molasses—Choice 80c; strictly prime 75c; prime 73c ₱ gallon.

Pacific Syrups—73c.

GRAIN—Receipts at the Grain Elevator, corn pulled by bushels, foot up as follows:

Oats, bushels	1,263
Barley, bushels	1,294
Corn, bushels	532
Barley, sacks	2,932
Rye, sacks	280
Oats, sacks	1,715

There are no changes to note other than to say that prices are firmer and tend to higher figures. Small order lots sell above standard quotations in favor of sellers, but we quote car lots as follows: Corn, sound, 45a46c on spot, according to quality. Shelled corn quiet and unchanged at 37a38c on track, and 39a40c in elevator. Rye is quiet and offerings limited; dealers are paying 90c. Barley is steady and in small demand at $1 50@1 60 for fall.

HAY—The market rules slow. We quote baled, on track at $26@28 ₱ ton. The demand is light.

HONEY—Sales in a jobbing way at 35@40c ₱ lb.

HOMINY—We

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1873.

HAVING sold my stock in the COMMERCIAL Company, and resigned as Editor, my connection with the paper ceases with the present issue.

Circumstances of a domestic and personal character, devolving on me paramount duties, and at the same time requiring a sacrifice, have seemed to me to demand that I should change my residence to a warmer climate.

I leave the paper at the moment of its greatest prosperity and influence—the result of nearly nine years of exacting labor, a relief from which, it would be useless for me to deny, I contemplate with a pleasure which measurably tempers the feelings of regret for the necessity which impels the separation. If during that time I have done anything honorable to journalism, or that deserves to be remembered and commended, I shall be content with such a judgment from the public, asking leniency for faults which cannot be forgotten.

C. D. BRIGHAM.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held on Saturday, the 25th instant, RUSSELL ERRETT was chosen Managing Editor of the COMMERCIAL, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of MR. C. D. BRIGHAM.

In assuming control of this paper, I do not feel as if entering on a new field, nor as if it needed any special introduction to make me acquainted with its readers. It is but resuming an old and congenial occupation, and both readers and editor know each other thoroughly.

It is needed only to say that, with the change in editor, there will be no change whatever in the character of the COMMERCIAL. It will be the effort of all concerned in its management to maintain its present reputation, to sustain its position as an independent Republican journal, and to keep up its well-earned name as a reliable newspaper, in all its departments—commercial, political, local and general. There will be no change in the *personnel* of the establishment; and the assistants who have labored so industriously, hitherto, to make it readable and trustworthy, and to keep it up abreast with the times, will remain to perform the same duties and in the same way as heretofore.

The COMMERCIAL, it may as well be understood, will not be the organ or the tool of any man, or clique, or set of men. It will endeavor to act for the best interests of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, and for the success of Republican principles through the Republican party; but it will reserve to itself the right, in doing this, to preserve its independence intact, to discuss men and measures freely and as they deserve, and to keep itself free from all merely personal or factional interests or influences. It is, as it stands, free from all embarrassments or entanglements on this score, and, please heaven, it will remain so.

Trusting to retain the confidence so long reposed in my worthy predecessor, I shall make it my steady effort to deserve it, and to make the paper, hereafter as heretofore, worthy of the patronage so liberally bestowed upon it.

RUSSELL ERRETT.

THE readers of the COMMERCIAL will unite with us, most heartily, in regretting the withdrawal of Mr. BRIGHAM from its management. He has spent many anxious and laborious years in building it up, and it is to his energy, tact, industry and unquestioned editorial ability that the paper owes the success to which it has permanently attained. A journalist by inclination as well as experience, he brought to the discharge of his duties a skill that has been but seldom equalled and still more rarely excelled. He took a pride in his handiwork, and devoted his whole soul to the work of making his paper attractive and indispensable to its readers, and it is a pity that abilities so great should be diverted from their only proper channel. We part from him with a sincere reluctance, and we trust that in whatever direction he may turn his energies in the future, he may meet with that success his ability so richly merits, and which he is so sure, by his energy, to deserve.

A RESOLUTION has been adopted by the Constitutional Convention, providing that on and after Monday next the sessions of that body shall commence at ten A. M. and continue until two P. M. It is perhaps a pity that the importance of a proper economization and employment of time did not strike the members of the Convention at an earlier date. Better late than never, however. Now let them show what can be accomplished by steady application to the business in hand.

GEORGIA papers state that the anniversary of the birthday of General LEE, which occurred a few days ago, was celebrated with the utmost *eclat* at different points in that State. The day, it is said, was generally observed as a holiday, "resembling the Fourth of July before the war," while in some places "the first parade of the military since the war took place." It is to be hoped Senator SUMNER will bear these facts, with their significance, in mind, when he delivers his proposed speech in the Senate in favor of obliterating the battle records of the Union army from the national ensigns.

JUST now the country seems in a mood for revolution in the cause of purity and national honor. Even Congress itself is beginning to apply the scalpel to its own cancers. It is to be hoped the purpose which that body apparently evinces of punishing bribery and corruption may turn out to be something more than a mere momentary spasm of indignation and virtue. The Senate, for instance, should hew squarely to the line in its investigations in the case of CALDWELL and others, no matter into whose faces the chips may fly. There are also some very grave charges of corruption against Senator-elect BOOT, of Missouri, which that body, for its own honor, must fully investigate before he is permitted to occupy a seat in the Senate chamber; since the character and dignity of Congress is brought into disgrace whenever a member, elected by corruption, is suffered to retain a seat in it.

GENERAL GORDON, the newly elected Senator from Georgia as successor to Senator HILL, whose term expires with the present Congress is the reputed chief of the Georgia Ku-Klux. Not long ago he was one of the fiercest and most untamable of all the unreconstructed—in short, an embodied camp fire, who outvied even TOOMBS in his frantic attempts to "tear the live thunder from its lair, and hurl it upon the head of the oppressor." Now, however, he is said to roar as gently as a sucking dove; although no change appears to have taken place in his political tendencies and convictions, which are of first proof Bourbon quality. Aside from his war record he is a mere nonentity; and it was chiefly his character as a brave and dashing officer in the rebel army that elected him; the Georgia Legislature being in good part made up of colonels, captains and lieutenants who erewhile fought in the service of the "Lost Cause." But he is altogether a past element in politics.

THE public credit of the United States has been characterized as "very low," by certain of our own newspapers, who base the statement upon data furnished by the *London Economist*. The quotations of our securities given by the paper named, while correct in a certain sense, are fallacious in that they make no account of the differences in the par of exchange, or of the accumulated interest. United States 5-20 bonds of 1865 are quoted in London at 93¾, while they are worth nearly 102 gold in this country. If this apparent difference was real, these bonds would be speedily returned to New York, but the fact is, the movement of American securities is in the opposite direction. The difference arises from the fact that the Spanish dollar, which is worth a fraction over nine per cent. more than the American dollar, is the standard of account between this country and England, and thus securities really at par are quoted in London below par. The American nation, in growth, resources and industrial energy and enterprise, surpasses all other nations; and its fidelity in the payment of its past obligations, with its increasing capacity to pay far beyond what is likely to be required in the future, will ever commend it to the respect and confidence of the capitalists of the world.

SOME LITTLE excitement has been created in religious circles in New York by the expulsion of a clergyman from the ministerial office for starting a species of lottery policy for the benefit of the church of which he was pastor. He, however, insists that the end justifies the means; so he still continues to preach—in another church—and to peddle his prize tickets unhindered. It may be remarked, too, that it is somewhat difficult to see wherein his proceedings differ in character from the general run of proceedings at church fairs, where "grab bags," postoffices and raffles bring in most of the money. The motive appealed to in all these cases is love of gain, and in all of them, while a few people get more than their money's worth, the many receive less. It might perhaps be an interesting study for those who insist on the morality of these transactions, to inquire as to how far they beget and promote other habits of speculation and gambling, in those who indulge in them. In Wisconsin the evil effects of these so-called religious and benevolent distribution schemes have become so marked that the Governor has called upon the Legislature to pass a law prohibiting them; and it is quite likely that their demoralizing influences are just as common and real in other States.

BIENNIAL SESSIONS AND SPRING ELECTIONS.

The Constitutional Convention appears, from its action already taken, to be given up to dreams and vagaries. It seems bent on adopting the section reported by its Committee on Legislation, which contains to our mind, three distinct heresies in it, the adoption of which by the Convention reflects but little credit on its good judgment. These are,

I. Prohibiting any city from having more than four Senators.

II. Biennial sessions of the Legislature.

III. Spring elections for local and municipal elections throughout the State, on one day, and to include Judicial officers.

The first proposition is simply an outrage upon every man's sense of Justice. It provides that, no matter what her population may be, Philadelphia shall never have more than four Senators. She is now entitled to six, and has but four, and no good reason can be given for disfranchising the people of that city to that extent. No people can afford to be unjust in their Constitution; and to say that 500,000 citizens outside of Philadelphia, shall have the same representation in the Senate as 800,000 citizens in it, is unjust in the highest degree. Equality in representation is a right which cannot safely be withheld or denied.

The second proposition for Biennial Legislatures, is founded on the idea that it will check and restrain legislation. But it is founded on a fallacy. It is a dream and nothing more. Experience has dispelled the delusion, elsewhere, but there seems to be, in this Convention, a total incapacity to profit by the experience of other peoples. Ohio tried it, a generation ago; and yet she has had an *annual session of her Legislature ever since its adoption*. The Biennial Legislatures either adjourned, at the end of the first session to meet the following winter, to sit through it, or the Governor called a special session. No winter has ever passed over without a session of the Legislature at Columbus; and the simple effect of the constitutional provision was, not to restrain legislation or reduce the sessions of the Legislature, but simply to extend the term of the legislators. Ohio and Pennsylvania have both held annual sessions; but our legislators were elected for one year and theirs for two.

It may be urged that the Constitution may prevent the Legislature from meeting more than once in two years, and prohibit the calling of extra sessions. So it may. But now about emergencies that may arise? Suppose the first Legislature under this plan to be chosen in 1874, and to meet in 1875. It will adjourn in the spring or summer of 1875, and no session can again be held until 1877. And then suppose the State to be invaded in 1875 or 1876, or some public calamity to befall the people of the State. Are we to suffer in silence until the Legislature can meet, constitutionally, a year or two afterward?

No one will pretend, we think, that such contingencies must not be provided for, and some discretion must be left in the Governor's hands as to calling extra sessions: and the moment you concede that power, that moment the possibility of preventing annual sessions goes clean out of reach.

We regard biennial sessions, therefore, as impracticable and improbable, and the present plan of electing Legislatures every year as preferable to choosing them once in two years. The blunders of one year, now, can be repaired the next; but under the biennial system the blunder of one year lasts for two.

The third proposition, to fix a day in February for all municipal elections, is in itself a blunder, and must lead to confusion and trouble. February is, for the largest part of the State, the worst possible month in the year for elections, and in cities, which begin their fiscal year in January, elections in February must work endless mischief. Fixing township elections at a time of year when the roads are bad, or the weather inclement, and when people will not or cannot turn out to attend them, is simply to throw those important elections into the hands of the few people who live near the places of holding them. It does not suit public convenience to hold these elections on one day throughout the State, and least of all does it suit in February.

The attempt to add to these township elections *the choice of judicial officers*, is the purest folly. If, as is most likely, but few people comparatively should attend these elections, the choice of the most important officers we have would be thrown into the hands of the minority. The time to elect judges is at the time when the people all turn out at the general elections, and not at a time when public interest has abated and public vigilance is relaxed.

But, it is said, the choice of a day in February for such elections will take the selection of township, borough and city officers and judges out of politics. How? and by what means? Upon what is the idea predicated, that politics will prevail at the October election and not at the February election? It is only cutting one job in two. The city elections in Pittsburgh and Allegheny were in December; but did politics prevail any the less at either? Was not every man, or nearly so, elected on a party ticket?

Politics can never be separated from elections in this country. They will control the choice of all officers as well in one month as another. And as long as men have political convictions, there is no good reason why it should not be so. Every officer chosen by popular vote is a partisan, and will carry his party views into office with him, no matter how or by whom chosen. We have known men chosen in moments of frenzy, when people thought they were acting independent of party; but we never knew of one so chosen who did not act out his previous political convictions, and we never knew of an instance in which the people did not afterwards regret their choice.

Judging from this specimen of the work of the Constitutional Convention, we have little hope of any good result from its labors. Its acts, so far, are the acts of dreamers and vagarists. The work is that of tinkers and not of skilled craftsmen. If what is to come is as silly and ridiculous as what has already passed, the doom of the new Constitution is already sealed. No people with a gleam of intelligence will approve such an instrument. All change is not reform, and none of the changes yet effected by this body can be regarded as an improvement.

VIENNA SHOW IN THE SENATE.

In appropriating only a hundred thousand dollars to defray the expenses of American participation in the Vienna Exposition, the House of Representatives betrayed a strange want either of intelligence or appreciation. Happily the Senate has done its part towards correcting the mistake of the other house, by passing an amendment which raises the sum to three hundred thousand dollars. A mere statement of the various sources of unavoidable expense, made by the mover of the amendment, Mr. SCHURZ, seems to have satisfied a large majority of the Senators that the amount named in the resolution of the House was wholly insufficient. The dissenting minority were, as might have been anticipated, brilliantly represented in the debate by the eminent and virtuous Senator from Michigan, Mr. CHANDLER, and by the equally eminent and virtuous Senator from Delaware, Mr. SAULSBURY. Mr. CHANDLER was opposed not only to the amendment but to the original resolution. "We have," said the eloquent legislator, "we have before taken part in several of these expositions, and have seen how those foreigners take our inventions without paying for them. I am against the whole thing." In reply Mr. SCHURZ remarked that, if foreigners wished to steal our inventions, they could do so in the patent office at Washington, where any one may copy the models and their descriptions. If the objection holds good, it would also forbid our having an exposition of our own, such as it is proposed to have in 1876. And then, no American is compelled to send his invention to Vienna; it is a voluntary risk. In conclusion Mr. Schurz called attention to the ample measures taken by the Austrain government for the protection of foreign inventors. These arguments reconciled Mr. CHANDLER to the original appropriation, but he still stood out against its increase; whereupon Mr. CAMERON tried to make the Senatorial brother ashamed of his opposition, remarking that he should have thought it paltry to vote against a sufficient appropriation, if a Senator had not declared his intention thus to vote.

Senator MORTON and HAMLIN earnestly supported the amendment. According to a statement made in the debate, the United States have been peculiarly favored in having assigned to them one of the most advantageous positions in the edifice. As the country will be judged as to its industrial condition by the show which it shall there make, manifestly it ought either to do its best or to take no part in the exhibition. An argument of considerable force in favor of the former course is the consideration that if Americans wish the meditated exposition of their approaching centenary celebration to be a success, they must contribute what they can to the success of the Vienna show of the present year. This no doubt will be done.

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY.

Governor HARTRANFT appears to have been pretty generally understood as expressing in his inaugural address an opinion favorable to the policy of compulsory education. Certainly his language recognizes the necessity of some decisive measure to counteract the evil of increasing illiteracy in the State; an evil which, under the existing school law, is the manifest result of non-attendance on the part of the children at the schools provided for their instruction. The non-attendance of the children is, of course, to a great extent the result of indifference to education on the part of the parents. Love of the literary rudiments, and especially fondness for the toil and self-restraint necessary to acquire them are not innate in the juvenile mind. Even children born and spending their first years in homes pervaded by an atmosphere of knowledge and intellectual activity, for the most part require some direct pressure as well as those pleasing enticements recommended by HORACE that they "may be willing to learn the first elements." It is therefore not remarkable that children, who from the circumstances of their birth enjoy no advantages meriting the name of home education, feel no attraction towards the school house or its occupations, and prefer to spend their time in idleness or play. At home they hear nothing in the conversation of their parents which, in the absence of direct admonition, might suggest the value of knowledge or the importance of education; the parents in many cases openly despising acquisitions which they do not themselves possess. In other instances, numerous indeed, the absentees from school are kept at home for the sake of their work in the maintenance of the family, the parents perhaps if questioned on the subject professing regret for the necessity which compels them to bring up their offspring in ignorance.

Now it is perfectly well ascertained that in Pennsylvania the whole number of parents who thus either disdain or neglect the education of their children, is relatively to the entire population of the State an almost insignificant minority; by which statement is merely meant that the minority is not so great that its dissent from or passive rejection of a law would suffice to render the law nugatory or contemptible. In fact, the dissent would not be stronger than probably exists in the case of many statutes which are enforced easily and with good results. It might also be expected with confidence that a law making education compulsory would be speedily succeeded by a rapid dissolution of opposition and by the conversion of members of the minority into earnest supporters of the enactment. In other words, the operation of the law would soon vindicate the wisdom and establish the sound policy of the measure. The children of the classes referred to, required to attend the schools become fond of them, grow interested in their own improvement, and their changed feelings are soon shared in by the parents who wonder at the hostility which formerly stirred them. And in any case, the children themselves are almost certainly gained over, and feel sincerely grateful for the constraint which may have seemed grievous in the beginning. This revolution of sentiment has been abundantly proved in the experience of other countries.

The right of the State to enforce the education of its youth seems almost too clear for argument. The State, in this country being merely the people in their organized capacity, can not allow the vulgar in a small minority prejudices which inevitably produce results so injurious and possibly disastrous to the Commonwealth. The connection between illiteracy and crime with its ever increasing burden of expense needs no illustration. Then, if the people, fully convinced of the necessity of popular education to the general welfare, may rightly levy taxes wherewith to build school houses and sustain a complete apparatus for popular instruction, is it possible that a portion of the population insignificant in point of number, are at liberty with impunity to frustrate, to the extent of their ability, the beneficent purpose, and in spite of the provisions made for their education, to bring up their children in ignorance? Clearly this can not be the case. Manifestly the State has the right to make sure that every child within its borders receives the degree of education required in the exercise of the duties of citizenship. And parents, whatever their necessities, have no right in this country to prevent their children from enjoying the educational advantages provided for them. Better for them to be aided by the free contributions than to aid them at the cost of the future welfare of the children and the good of society.

Much of the opposition to compulsory education is evidently directed against a purely imaginary enemy. Thus we learn from the Pittsburgh *Volksblatt*, of yesterday, that a certain nameless Democratic organ "opposes the idea of compulsory education as being a scheme to compel all youth able to go to school to attend the free schools, and thus receive at the hands of the State a uniform education destructive of individuality. Though such a plan may be entertained by some friends of the compulsory policy, it is surely not held by many, and certainly has no necessary connection with the policy now so generally favored. However excellent our common school instruction is or may become, it is not proposed to force it upon those who choose to have their children differently educated. Private schools and sectarian schools it is not proposed to interfere with farther than to ascertain that they impart a measure of education at least equal to that imparted in the common schools. The allegation of the Democratic organ that compulsory education in Prussia has destroyed the private schools, is dismissed by our German contemporary as utterly groundless. On the contrary, in Prussia, along with the public schools, multitudes of private establishments for instruction exist, which meet the peculiar views of parents regarding education, social relations, etc. They are, however, says the *Volksblatt*, all under State control, but only so far as respects the grade of culture imparted in them; with the instruction itself the State functionary does not interfere. Nothing more than this, if quite so much is proposed in this country, and we do not perceive that any difficulties necessarily attach to an arrangement which would be satisfactory to all. How the child shall be instructed must of course be left to parents who choose to exercise the privilege; that the child shall receive the degree of instruction indispensable to its own and the public good the State is clearly bound to require.

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM.

If the reader understands by "independent," as applied to journalism, an entire freedom from dependence and a liberty to say or do *any* thing which caprice may prompt, there is and there can be no such thing as "independent journalism." Every journal, no matter what its character or what ability may be brought to its control, is dependent on the public for support. It must have friends who agree with it in its views and purposes, or it could not live. To that extent, then, every journal is dependent. It *must* have an audience: and its very existence depends on its accord with those who listen to what it has to say.

But if by "independent" the reader means only that freedom from slavish fear which leaves a man at liberty to canvass the merits of candidates for public favor and to discuss questions of public interest in a manly, bold and courageous way, unswayed by hope of favor and uninfluenced by affection, yet still without giving unnecessary offense, then there *is* such a thing as "independent journalism." We do not say that there is, as yet, any great quantity of that kind of journalism; but we do say that such journalism is *possible*; and if an editor may never thoroughly attain to it, he can, at least, always aim at it and strive after it.

Every newspaper not merely owes something, but very much, to the community of which it forms a part, and to the party or interest to which it looks for support. It cannot afford to disregard, or neglect, or oppose the material interests of the people, whose voice it assumes to be, nor to run counter to the general purposes and plans of the party (if it be a political paper) whose principles it professes to advocate. And when we say it cannot *afford* to do this, we do not use that word with reference to the mere pecuniary interest therein involved, but to the maintenance of its general character for consistency and fidelity.

But in journalism, as in everything else, there is a right and a wrong way of doing things. A paper may stand up for the interests of the community and the success of its principles in a very intemperate and unjust way, as well as in a very slavish and timorous way, and either of these is sure to be the wrong way. It may, also, do all this temperately, justly and fearlessly, and this is just as sure to be the right way; and the journalist who chooses this right way is on the high road to independent journalism.

It requires, we know, a great deal of courage to say to your party friends, "such and such a measure is wrong," but if the journalist believes it to be wrong, it is his duty to say it, or he is in no sense independent. He must say it, of course, judiciously, temperately and without judging or misjudging the motives of those who differ with him; but he must say his say or forever bid farewell to the hope of attaining to independence in journalism.

It requires, also, much more courage even than this to say to your party, "this is a bad nomination—one altogether unfit to be made." Yet if it *be* bad (and there *have* been such things as bad nominations), it behooves the journalist to say so, kindly but firmly, or to abjure all claim to journalistic independence. It is, of course, for every journalist to determine for himself how far to go in this plainness of speech, and how to put it most effectually, for as much depends on the manner of saying as on what is said; but what the independent journalist wants is the judgment to determine wisely when to say such things, the skill to say them prudently and effectually, and, above all, the pluck to say them fearlessly. This, and this only, is independent journalism.

Independence in journalism, however, is not confined to politics or local interests. It extends to the whole range of subjects which a newspaper may discuss. The spirit, however, which leads an editor to independence in one thing, will foster it in all things. We instance party politics, in discussing this question, because it is just there that independence is the most difficult. If once attained in that direction it becomes easy as well as habitual in all other things. A journalist who is fearless in politics will not be craven in other fields of editorial labor.

With a great deal of what is now called "independent journalism" we have no sympathy whatever. It means simply brigandage in journalism. The men who thus lay claim to independence, mistake license for independence, and are to legitimate journalism what freebooters and brigands are to legitimate warfare. It is not independent journalism to be at war with everybody and everything, or to be above all parties or sects. So long as men differ in opinion and judgment so long will they range themselves into parties, and so long will they need mouth pieces and advocates; but parties may do wrong, or act unjustly, or present bad men for office; and he is the truly independent journalist who, while he deals justly and temperately with his opponents as a partisan, is still able to say no to his own party and associates, when it or they do a wrong or unjustifiable thing.

The journalist, then, may be independent as well as partisan; may sustain his party and not give up his freedom, and may advocate local interests without being provincial. The first essential is manliness, and the courage inseparable from it; the next is a keen appreciation of the rights an feelings of others. With these any journalist may be independent, and successfully so it, with them, he can blend that soundness of judgment which dictates the when and the how.

It is an encouraging sign of the times that this spirit is steadily infusing itself into the journalism of the country. It has its spurious imitators; but the public judgment is too keen to be long deceived by the imitation. The swagger of the freebooter in journalism is too palpable to be mistaken. The tendency is generally and decisively towards true independence, and the hope of the nation is in its steady growth.

THE QUARREL THICKENING.

The cable dispatches contained in our issue of yesterday indicate a somewhat important development in the controversy between Russia and England, as they report that the British government recognizes as pertaining to Afghanistan an extensive tract of country, the allegiance of whose tribes has been heretofore claimed by the Emir of that country, but seldom if ever conceded by the chiefs. They will, however, no doubt, be willing enough to unite with him in defending the boundary of their country against Russian aggression, and it is a boundary which possesses many advantages for that purpose, being line from the Oxus river and the Hindoo Koosh. It also so happens that Russia's object in attacking Khiva—besides punishing the Khan—is to possess and fortify the whole valley of the Oxus. Hence by taking up the ground reported, England makes it hardly worth while for Russia to pursue her expedition against Khiva, unless she is prepared to fight Afghanistan, backed by England, for the possession of the coveted territory. Though Russia is represented as declining to accept the British definition of the Afghan boundaries, it manifestly seems improbable that she will at present go on to defy the British warning off. It does not seem that she can afford so high-handed a proceeding. In the first place, her hold upon Bokhara and the other countries recently annexed or reduced to vassalage is by no means strong; indeed, it is known to be decidedly shaky. In the second place, as we stated yesterday, the projected expedition against Khiva is encompassed with difficulties of the most embarrassing description, even if the Khan should be left to his own resources. But if Russia proceeds to encounter them, with the avowed purpose of disregarding England's declaration regarding the limits of Afghanistan, then, with or without any direct hint from London or Calcutta, not only the Afghans, but all the peoples and tribes recently subdued or menaced by the Czar, will probably rush to arms, and His Imperial Majesty will find his hands fuller of work than they have ever been before.

THE New York *Bulletin*, a not inconsiderable financial authority, congratulates the country upon the negotiation by which the Secretary of the Treasury has virtually disposed of the remaining $300,000,000 of five per cent. bonds, and says it will go far towards elevating the credit of the government to a position which will make the reduction of interest on the whole six per cent. debt a matter of easy achievement. After the consummation of this operation there will still remain outstanding $ 648,000,000 of six per cent obligations; and whatever facilitates the transmutation of that large amount into bonds bearing 1@1¼ per cent less interest is clearly an advantage to the country at large. The wealth and high standing of the bankers who have undertaken this operation, and their commanding influence in the European money markets, afford ample guarantee of the success of the loan; while by accepting proposals from both syndicates, so as to combine the two in one, Mr. SOUTHWELL has secured a powerful force for carrying through the negotiation, and has also acquired an accession of the prestige which high names always give to financial operations of this character. The natural tendency of the negotiation will be to elevate our credit generally, and to improve the value of the mass of securities held abroad. It is thought, however, that nearly or quite a hundred millions of the outstanding three hundred millions of five-twenties are held in this country. Should this be the case, a part of the loan will have to be negotiated here, and the foreign part will not comprise more than about two-thirds of the whole amount. As to the four and one half per cents., the expectation is that they will be taken up by the syndicate, and that the four per cents. will follow, a few months interval being allowed between each loan. The present loan exhausts all the fives authorized by the law of July 14, 1870, as amended January 20, 1871. The law authorizes three hundred millions of four and one half per cents. and seven hundred millions of four per cents., of which the former, it is supposed, can be negotiated during the year 1874, if the present loan is satisfactorily carried through.

THE recent action of the coopers of this city and county in petitioning the Legislature to pass a bill to prohibit the manufacture of barrels at the County Workhouse, on the ground that the competition of penal and pauper labor injures their business, is attracting considerable attention outside the State, the general conclusion respecting the matter being that the petitioners are mistaken at all points in the controversy, which, indeed, an investigation of the facts of the case goes far to show. It is a universal axiom that competition is the life of trade, causing it to increase by attracting attention, thus gradually calling for additional factories and workmen, and thereby benefiting alike the employer and employed. Remarking on this subject, the Detroit *Post* cites the experience of the authorities of the House of Correction in that city with regard to a similar matter. Some years ago a chair factory was established in that institution, the effect of which has been to build up a local chair market, which every private manufactory helps to swell. This stands to reason. The manufacture of shoes has for many years been carried on in the Western Penitentiary of this State, yet we never heard that the market was overstocked or depressed in consequence of this industry. So with regard to the coarser kinds of carpets manufactured at the same institution. It is a fallacy that competition injures business; as, indeed, is sufficiently proven by the fact that some four hundred thousand barrels have been imported into this region within a year, in addition to those manufactured by the Workhouse factory and private coopers, both together not being able to supply the demand. Facts like these interpret themselves.

ON the tenth of next month a convention of delegates from the Western riparian States will assemble at Washington for the purpose of urging upon Congress the importance of making an appropriation of an amount sufficient to improve and make navigable at all seasons, when not obstructed by ice, the Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Mississippi rivers. This is perhaps the most comprehensive step which has yet been taken for the accomplishment of this desirable object. The demand is a reasonable one; nor is there any doubt that the value of such improvements to the country generally would eventually far exceed the cost of effecting them. It is almost impossible to estimate the additional amount of freight that would annually pass up and down these rivers if they had navigable channels at all seasons of the year except when ice blocked. Let our steamboat owners take their tonnage and compare what their receipts would be at present rates with full cargoes each way the year round, subtracting from the total the amount of what they now are, and they will be surprised at the immense benefits which would be conferred by having these rivers improved so as to give the desired depth of water. One result of such improvements would be a material reduction in the existing rates of freight, a very important matter, considering the vast aggregate of Western river commerce. Delegates from Illinois and some other States have already been appointed; Pennsylvania, however, has not yet taken any action regarding the matter. This, it is to be hoped, she will soon do. No State has a more direct or vital interest in the question, nor should any State be more prompt in promoting the success of the important objects in view.

EVEN THE warmest admirers of Russia in this country are of course aware with what assiduous care the Czar superintends the reading of his subjects, not permitting a Russian newspaper to circulate among them which presumes to publish either facts or thoughts of a character to render them discontented with their government. It may not be so generally known that the Russian censorship also keeps a watchful eye upon foreign journals which may find their way into the empire and do mischief. Thus, the *New Free Press*, of Vienna, having indulged lately in unflattering remarks concerning the Russian government, it is no longer allowed to circulate in any part of the empire. Instead of complaining about this treatment, the editor expresses his deeply felt thanks for so frank and striking a recognition of the influence of his journal. "When a government which rules over eighty millions of men is so much afraid of a paper printed at Vienna as to exclude from its territory," etc., the argument is obvious. In conclusion, the editor remarks that "this act of press-censorship is entirely worthy of a government which brutally disregards the secrecy of letters and dispatches, banishes to Siberia newspaper correspondents who tell the truth, and in its friendship for civilization renders all intercourse of foreign countries impossible with persons who are so fortunate as to live in Russia." Though not flattering, these remarks of the *Neue Freie Presse* are too nearly true to pass for jest.

ONE of the great commercial objects of the age is the shortening of the ocean passage between the Old World and the New. The port of White Haven, in Nova Scotia, is one hundred and fifty miles nearer to Liverpool than Halifax, and would be within a few miles as near to Boston or New York as Halifax is, were the intervening gap of only seventy miles between New Glasgow and White Haven spanned by railway; so that by making the latter the point of departure and arrival between Europe and America, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles by water, and sixty miles by land, or a period of some twenty hours in time, would be saved. A movement is said to be on foot looking to the construction of a railroad between these two points, in connection with the idea of making the latter port an *entrepot* for the steamships now running between this country and Europe. It is claimed, in the first place, that the passage from Europe to White Haven can be made in five and a half days, and that by the construction of this proposed road the time between Boston and Queenstown could be shortened to about seven days, and to New York to seven and a half days. Such a route, it is argued, would secure all the foreign passenger traffic, and much of the freight business which is now brought entirely by water to Boston or New York. Whether these expectations are likely to be realized remains to be seen; the project, however, possesses considerable interest for the public generally.

NOT A LITTLE public commendation has been bestowed on New Jersey judges and juries for the impartial and even handed manner in which they have been wont to deal out justice to offenders against the law. Some time ago one BUMSTEAD, who from the extent and magnitude of his swindling operations was dubbed the "Boss Tweed" of Jersey City, was sent to the penitentiary for nine months for stealing money from the city under cover of a real estate operator. But now see the fine discrimination of the penal authorities of New Jersey between its wealthy convicts and those who are poor. This man, who was pardoned a few days ago, occupied two sumptuously furnished cells which had been converted into a suite for his benefit. Convicts, moreover, have to work; but BUMSTEAD paid sixty cents a day to the State to escape labor, and during his imprisonment he spent between two and three thousand dollars in providing himself with choice viands and other luxuries, which were served up to him every day. Thus, pampered and petted, clothed in purple and fine linen, he sipped the wine of his punishment in luxurious ease, treated on every side with gingerly obsequiousness until he marched out of prison shining with sleekness, on his way to a reception and banquet, which, it is said, are being prepared "in his honor" at a leading hotel. How proud ought not New Jersey to feel over the incomparable way in which she has "vindicated the outraged majesty of the law!"

PUBLIC sentiment, as represented and expressed in the press of the country, has achieved another triumph in determining the House Committee of Ways and Means to report adversely on the various bills referred to them for the refunding of the cotton tax. The same authoritative force demands that the committee shall take similar action with regard to the bill in course of preparation by Congressmen BECK, providing for the refunding of two-thirds of the amount collected to the producer. Not to speak of the fact that, should his proposition become a law, it is likely that claims will be presented for more cotton than has been grown in the United States for the past ten years, and laying aside the question of the constitutionality of the tax itself, it seems clear that if restitution is to be made at all it ought to be to those on whom the burden of the imposition actually fell. These, unquestionably, were the persons who purchased the fabrics manufactured from the staple so taxed, and they are scattered up and down the length and breadth of the world. Instead of sending Commissioners to the Southern States to take testimony to substantiate the claims of the producers, Mr. BECK should make application for the appointment of a roving Commission to ascertain the exact amount of cotton goods produced from American cotton worn by the inhabitants of the globe during the period in question, and on the basis of the information so obtained direct the award.

The Public Schools of Boston.

Boston has 318 day schools, with 1,001 teachers—147 men and 854 women. The school statistics of that city for the past year furnish several items of interest. The whole number of scholars was 36,254, and the average attendance 33,502. The whole expense was $1,244,880, or $38 57 per scholar. There was a decrease of about 600 scholars in the primary department, where each teacher had an average of 42 pupils. In the high schools there were 25 scholars to a teacher, and the cost of tuition footed up about $80 per capita. In the Latin school there has been a steady decrease for several years, for which no cause can be assigned, as it was never more efficiently organized. The evening schools were very generally successful and increasing, and the study of drawing gains a larger place with each succeeding term. Great progress has been made during the past two or three years in teaching the girls to sew, and an increased interest in this branch is said to be evinced among both teachers and scholars.

IN THE case of Port *vs.* Port, now before Judge Farwell, of Chicago, the question at issue is, does cohabitation, acknowledged by both parties, constitute a valid and binding marriage in Illinois? The plaintiff claims a widow's interest in the estate of S. W. Port, deceased, amounting to $15,000 or $20,000, seeking to prove a marriage at common law, no ceremony having been performed. Her argument is that Port lived with her between two and three years; that he was accustomed to introduce her in public as his wife, and that he held to her the relations of a husband up to the time of his death. The defendants seek to prove that the relations existing between the parties were illicit, by showing that on sundry occasions, before and after the death of Port, the plaintiff declared that she was not married to the deceased; that the relations of the parties were generally so considered by those who were acquainted with the circumstances. The court excluded the evidence offered to sustain the latter point, as it concerned Mr. Port, who is now dead. This is the first case of the kind in Illinois, and is of importance in deciding the question at issue. In similar cases in New York, Pennsylvania and other States, affirmative decisions have been given.

Benjamin D. Emerson, compiler of those highly valuable and profitable school books, Emerson's Arithmetic, died recently at Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, leaving about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, of which one hundred thousand goes to Dartmouth College—a notable instance of piling up a fortune in arithmetical ratio.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

It is reported that James Gordon Bennett contemplates the establishment of a great London daily on the American plan.

The cause of temperance is most certainly in the ascendant when the State of Kentucky passes a Sunday liquor law. Yet such was the action of the Legislature of that bourbon-producing Commonwealth last Friday.

Some 3,000 owners of real estate in Chicago have before them the pleasing prospect of suits in Chancery, arising from the action of the County Clerk, who gave tax deeds of their property to other persons without going through any of the usual technical formalities except that of demanding $1 for each deed.

One of the most remarkable signs of the times is to see one of the most gifted orators of Massachusetts come out in opposition to prohibition and in favor of beer-drinking as a preventive for intemperance.

Paris contains 1,450 hunchbacks, 1,224 individuals with only one arm, 1,145 with one leg, 110 cripples, 17 without noses and 3 without either arms or legs.

The Dominion Board of Trade has resolved to memoralize the government of Canada to appoint a commission for the purpose of endeavoring to secure a treaty with the United States which shall provide for reciprocal trade by means of a reduction or repeal of duties on products entering into the consumption of both countries.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court has decided that by maintaining a building with a roof so constructed that the snow and ice collecting on it from natural causes will naturally and probably fall into the adjoining highway, the owner of the building is liable, without other proof of negligence, to a person injured by such a fall upon him while traveling on the highway.

The Toronto *Globe* strongly favors an international gold coinage. It says: "If Germany won't go into the arrangement, why should not the other nations, especially the Western ones, do so? France, Austria, Italy, Spain, Britain, Canada, and the United States might arrange matters.

It appears from the British official reports that 787 emigrant ships, containing 195,776 passengers, left the Mersey during 1872. These figures show an increase of 43 ships and 29,891 passengers as compared with the previous year.

A compilation of interesting figures has just been prepared at the Treasury Department, showing that the business of the government during the last nine years has been greater, and the receipts larger, than during the whole existence of the government previously.

Emigration from England to Brazil seems to be rapidly growing in extent, although the reports received from European farmers and mechanics already on the ground are very conflicting.

California carries over an immense surplus of the crop of 1872, while the recent abundant rains, and all the weather signs indicate, almost with certainty, that the crop of 1873 will exceed that of 1872 by about twenty-five per cent.

That terrible visitation commonly known as the "spotted fever," but known to the medical profession as *cerebro spinal meningitis*, is fearfully prevalent in some portions of the Mississippi valley and other localities in the West.

We have statistics and hydrostatics, pneumatics and rheumatics; but none of these accurately represent the feelings of young ladies when they see a new bonnet or a new baby, or hear of another ball or a fresh party—this is ecstatics.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company are building a narrow guage railroad from Cheyenne to a point west of Denver, so as to compete for the business now drawn to the broad guage connecting these two towns.

People in Texas are talking about a grand celebration three months hence, when they expect a railroad train made up in New York, to go through to their State without breaking the connection.

The citizens of St. John and of other towns on the Bay of Fundy desire the employment there of a public steam vessel to render assistance to vessels in distress, and otherwise promote their commercial interests. When annexation latitude be bay under the dominion of the "stars and stripes" this matter will be promptly attended to.

Chicago has 2,513 drunkard manufactories, and only one Inebriate Home to accommodate the products of these shops.

A correspondent of the Smithsonian Institution, who has made the measurement himself, reports that Niagara Falls gives a power of 11,263,036 horses. By the last census there are 51,017 water-wheels in operation in this country, giving a power of 1,130,416 horses.

The colored men of Maryland will hold a convention in Annapolis on Wednesday, February 19, to urge the passage of the supplementary Civil Rights bill and of a National Education bill, and also to secure, as far as possible, recognition of colored men in Federal and State appointments.

The startling statement is made, by a reporter who has been making the rounds of the Boston hotels to examine